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Municipal Book
of Houston
1928

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# *Founders of City of Houston and First Advertisement on City*

## J. K. ALLEN *and* A. C. ALLEN

Aug. 30—

JAMES KA

# THE TOWN OF HOUSTON.

SITUATED at the head of navigation, on the West bank of Buffalo Bayou, is now for the first time brought to public notice because, until now, the proprietors were not ready to offer it to the public, with the advantages of capital and improvements.

The town of Houston is located at a point on the river which must ever command the trade of the largest and richest portion of Texas. By reference to the map, it will be seen that the trade of San Jacinto, Spring Creek, New Kentucky and the Brazos, above and below Fort Bend, must necessarily come to this place, and will at this time warrant the employment of at least ONE MILLION DOLLARS of capital, and when the rich lands of this country shall be settled, a trade will flow to it, making it, beyond all doubt, the great interior commercial emporium of Texas.

The town of Houston is distant 15 miles from the Brazos river, 30 miles, a little North of East, from San Felippe, 60 miles from Washington, 40 miles from Lake Creek, 50 miles South West from New Kentucky, and 15 miles by water and 8 or 10 by land above Harrisburg. Tide water runs to this place and the lowest depth of water is about six feet. Vessels from New Orleans or New York can sail without obstacle to this place, and steamboats of the largest class can run down to Galveston Island in 8 or 10 hours, in all seasons of the year. It is but a few hours sail down the bay, where one may take an excursion of pleasure and enjoy the luxuries of fish, foul, oysters and sea bathing. Galveston harbor being the only one in which vessels drawing a large draft of water can navigate, must necessarily render the Island the great naval and commercial depot of the country.

The town of Houston must be the place where arms, amunitions and provisions for the government will be stored, because, situated in the very heart of the country, it combines security and the means of easy distribution, and a national armory will no doubt very soon be established at this point.

There is no place in Texas more healthy, having an abundance of excellent spring water, and enjoying the sea breeze in all its freshness. No place in Texas possesses so many advantages for building, having Pine, Ash, Cedar and Oak in inexhaustible quantities; also the tall and beautiful Magnolia grows in abundance. In the vicinity are fine quarries of stone.

Nature appears to have designated this place for the future seat of Government. It is handsome and beautifully elevated, salubrious and well watered, and now in the very heart or centre of population, and will be so for a length of time to come. It combines two important advantages: a communication with the coast and foreign countries, and with the different portions of the Republic. As the country shall improve, rail roads will become in use, and will be extended from this point to the Brazos, and up the same, also from this up to the head waters of San Jacinto, embracing that rich country, and in a few years the whole trade of the upper Brazos will make its way into Galveston Bay through this channel.

Preparations are now making to erect a water Saw Mill, and a large Public House for accommodation, will soon be opened. Steamboats now run in this river, and will in a short time commence running regularly to the Island.

The proprietors offer the lots for sale on moderate terms to those who desire to improve them, and invite the public to examine for themselves.

A. C. ALLEN, for
A. C. & J. K. ALLEN

August 30, 1836.—6in

The Commercial Bulletin, of New Orleans, Mobile Advertiser, the Globe at Washington, Morning Courier and New York Enquirer, New York Herald, and Louisville Public Advertiser are requested to make three insertions of this advertisement, and forward their bills to the office for payment.

NEWS & TELEGRAPH.

# HOUSTON ~ *Historically*

*By* Clarence R. Wharton

MANY of our American commonwealths and cities have seen centuries of growth and development, but Houston has not yet reached its 100th year. On August 30, 1836, the promoters of the proposed town of Houston inserted their first advertisement in the only newspaper then being published in Texas—*Borden's Telegraph and Register,* which at that time was being issued at Columbia, on the Brazos. The advertisement was of a city yet to be. A reproduction of it is given on the preceding page.

In November, 1836, the Congress of the Republic of Texas was in session at Columbia, and voted to select a seat of government until the year 1840. The Journal of this session recited that on the fourth ballot "Houston on Buffalo Bayou was chosen over Matagorda and Washington."

At that time there was not a house in Houston.

Francis R. Lubbock, afterwards governor of Texas, was residing at Columbia and decided to move to Houston along with the government. In January, 1837, he loaded his chattel effects upon a boat bound for the new capital, and in his memoirs relates that they arrived at Harrisburg without difficulty, but he says, no boat had ever been above Harrisburg and, "we were three days making the distance to Houston. The slow time was in consequence of the bad snags that we were compelled to move as we progressed. We had to rig a windlass which was placed on the shore and to heave the logs and snags out of the way—the passengers all working faithfully. Capitalists, dignified Judges, military heroes, young merchants in fine clothes, all lent a helping hand. It was necessary to lie by at night. In the evenings we had dancing and frolicking with the settlers on shore, who were delighted to see us. Just before reaching our destination a party of us, becoming weary of the steamer, took a yawl and concluded we would hunt for the city.

"So little evidence could we see of a landing that we passed by the site and ran up White Oak Bayou, where we stuck in the brush. We then backed down the Bayou and discovered a road or street leading off from the water's edge. Upon landing we found stakes and footprints. Following these up the bank we saw some tents located not far away. One large one was a saloon. Several small houses were in the course of erection."

About the same time that Governor Lubbock discovered the city, approaching from the east, Captain Robert Boyce, who had recently been a soldier in the army of the Republic, approached it from the west. In

a record which he has left, he says that they left Brazoria on the 18th of January, 1837, with two wagons drawn by oxen, and in three weeks had reached Bray's Bayou.

"We built a rough bridge over Bray's Bayou. . . . About three o'clock in the afternoon we sighted Houston. It then consisted of clapboard camps and tents; not even a log house was finished. Coming from Bray's Bayou we struck the heavy timber just south of Market Square. (This heavy timber was what is now the intersection of Preston and Travis streets.) After breakfast the next morning we discovered a new white tent in which a New Orleans merchant had opened a clothing store. Here, for $4, I purchased an outfit and dressed up like a gentleman."

These beginnings of Houston were only a little more than ninety years ago. Until long after the Civil War Galveston was the leading city of Texas.

There is quite a contrast now with what Frank Lubbock and Bob Boyce saw when they approached the city from opposite directions ninety years ago. Who can say that when another ninety years have rolled away the changes will be even greater, and that our children's children will not make comment on the rude simplicity of the Houston of 1929? Who knows?

# HOUSTON ~ *An Introduction*

*By* H. Clay Waters

WE who live amidst the fast changing scenes of a rapidly growing city have difficulty in keeping up with the progress we are making. It is well we now and then take stock, that we recapitulate and set down just what we have done; and recall to ourselves, and remind the world, of our progress, and record where we now are.

In order to do that this City Book of Houston has been compiled. Within its pages is condensed in word and picture the story of a city's marvelous growth, a story both instructive and fascinating, and one that should inspire and give added impetus to future growth.

The growth of a city, as the growth of a nation, seems naturally to divide itself into epochs. The story told herein concerns itself largely with what is surely an epoch—the last eight years. Incidentally it is the period coincident with the tremendous revival following the recovery from the World War.

The latest edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica recognizes this epoch in this city's growth when it says of Houston:

> "*A few years after the world war, Houston became a world port, with 33 steamship lines in 1925 operating regularly to the principal ports of North and South America, Europe and the Orients . . . . . Between 1920 and 1925 great progress was made in paving and widening streets, constructing sewers and bridges, improving the fire department, building driveways along the bayous, adding parks and public buildings and transforming the business section with modern office buildings and hotels . . . . .*"

The period under discussion comprises roughly the four terms of Mayor Oscar F. Holcombe, which came to a close in April, 1929. Perhaps it was the spirit of an awakening city, throbbing with the new life, that followed a period of comparative stagnation during the war period, that called to its service a young and aggressive type of man to head the municipal government, that was responsible for that growth. Perhaps that leader helped kindle to high pitch that spirit of progress and growth, but, be it as we will have it, none have disputed that great results were accomplished.

No array of figures can portray adequately the transformation that has come to Houston, in those eight years of momentous change. The child blossoms into sturdy young manhood or womanhood by the addition of

bone and sinew. But he adds something else—things of the spirit, high ambitions, an awakened confidence in his powers. He feels his strength and sets new high goals.

So it has been with Houston. Those who look back a decade may recall a city of dreams and promises and hopes. Long we had talked of the channel and what it would do to make a city—when our dreams came true. We promised ourselves we would some day lift the city out of the mud. We had gone so far as to make city plans, in which we pictured beautiful driveways along the banks of bayous. We had told ourselves we had a wonderful opportunity to construct here a great system of parks and playgrounds. We had visualized the rearing of great skyscrapers, the erection of wonderful and highly modern school buildings, magnificent libraries and art museums, broad paved highways extending to the ever-expanding limits of the city. We had talked of great concrete drives running down the bayou to meet at shipside the cargoes from ports all over the world. We had envisioned the coming of great refineries and factories and power plants to line our ship channel.

We had boundless confidence, inherited from those pioneers who had worked long and hard to lay the foundations, but always we talked of the time to come in which we were to realize on those dreams of greatness.

And then the time did come. It came more quickly than the most sanguine of us had expected, and certainly the harvest of things hoped for was a bounteous one. It began eight years ago when a tremendous era of municipal improvements began, backed up by the confidence of the people, and supported generously by their funds. It is significant that the people here took the leadership through their municipal government in pushing the city forward. They didn't wait for private initiative to start first. They led. Already they had poured out their money to help bring the sea to the city and to construct municipal terminals. They had no doubt of the security of that investment, and they began to add quickly the municipal improvements for a great city which they knew had been made inevitable by its natural advantages and the millions they had invested to build a port.

Let's take a glance back to the beginning of this period. Only eight years ago strangers in our midst would comment on our backwardness in paving of city streets, in our lack of sewerage systems, in our seeming lack of pride in our public buildings, in the lack of bridges across our bayous and the unsightliness of the few we had. As we behold now from our vantage ground what has been achieved we are prone to feel that we have always enjoyed these things, but they have come to us so grandly and in such quick succession that we have ourselves become a little bewildered with it all.

The entire area of the city comprised but 35 square miles in 1920, and now it is 68.78, or nearly double the area then. We boasted of 140,000 population in 1920. An extensive survey of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company months ago fixed our population at 285,000, declaring Houston to be the metropolis of Texas, whereas ten years ago it ranked third in the government census. Undoubtedly the 1930 census will verify that fact. Recent poll tax payments, scholastic enumerations and numbers of consumers of light, gas and telephones all corroborate the fact Houston leads the State.

In eight years Houston has constructed more miles of paved streets than in all the 81 years of the previous history of the city, since the Allen brothers planted a little community on the banks of Buffalo Bayou, drew a blue print and began to tell wonderful stories of the future of their townsite in truly approved real estate fashion. But that doesn't tell but half the story of street improvements. Until eight years ago we hardly knew what it was to widen a street. But since then we have gone in for street widening on a vast scale, and have found great relief for constantly increasing traffic.

The driveways we had pictured on blue prints and in pictures, planning experts had made, have become a reality, but are not all completed. All are familiar with Buffalo Bayou drive, White Oak drive and the work in progress on MacGregor drive. With these roadways we have pierced new sections of the city, and brought them close to the heart of the metropolis, and added millions to the taxable value. In this highway construction program we have not failed to construct a score of bridges and underpasses, linking sections of the city together, which only a few years ago were miles apart, due to lack of passageways over bayous which cut the city. Just recall that only eight years ago one had to travel from the Hyde Park-Montrose section down through the heavy traffic to get out to the heavily populated Houston Heights—now a little drive of a few minutes across Waugh drive.

What Houstonian can help but be proud of those driveways down the channel on each side, unquestionably the finest roadways of any city in Texas, and probably in the entire Southland. Constructed at a cost of approximately $5,000,000 they link the heart of Houston with its great terminals on both sides of the Turning Basin and farther down the channel. Only last month was the $750,000 Franklin-Navigation underpass opened to traffic, completing the drive on the south side of the channel. Many of these driveways went over land not before used for street purposes, which had to be acquired at heavy cost, and a great deal of the work was attended by difficult engineering problems. The present administration leaves office with all funds provided and plans made for the completion of the White Oak drive and MacGregor drive, and with progress far along on a great

highway that is to circle the city on its outer rim, making one of the finest automobile driveways in the United States.

A little over eight years ago and Houston, to its shame, had an inadequate sewer system, in this southern climate where it is so much needed. Tens of thousands of open toilets served as a menace to the health of its people. Despite the remarkable expansion of the city ninety per cent of its residents are now served with sanitary sewers. Portions of the city that are not have been only recently acquired. It is now the settled policy of the city to always supply sanitary sewers except where the population is too scanty or the cost prohibitive.

Houston has also made great progress in the construction of storm sewers, although the drainage problem in Houston is beset with many difficulties due to the flat topography, running costs into huge sums. But some millions have been spent, a complete drainage plan worked out and it calls for construction of a complete system over a period of the next few years.

Houston has but recently been commended by one of the leading city planning experts of the country for what it has done in the way of parks and playgrounds. Eight years ago it had little to brag of. It owned Hermann Park, but that 545 acres was nothing but a wilderness of underbrush, waiting for the hand of an artist. Now, its magnificent golf course, Miller Memorial, imposing statue of Sam Houston, playgrounds, beautiful paved drives, zoo which attracts thousands of visitors, and its native woodland, make it one of the South's greatest playgrounds. At that time few people knew we owned anything but unimproved Hermann Park, 20-acre Sam Houston Park and a few small, mostly unimproved playgrounds. Now we own 30 parks and playground sites comprising more than 2,600 acres and a large number of them have been highly improved. Crowning the park system is Memorial Park of 1,503 acres, which, when present plans are carried out, will make it the largest and most beautiful of the parks of the country.

A complete story of a multitude of city activities is told within the pages of this little book, but in introduction we may here just mention some changes that have come over many activities of the city in just the few years encompassed in this review.

Let's just mention what has been done in the way of public buildings, the remodeling of the city auditorium, the construction of one of the most beautiful central libraries in the South and construction of two beautiful branches; the construction of a central fire and police station, to take the place of two old dilapidated eyesores that housed these departments before; the erection of many new sub fire stations, built in a style of architecture to adorn the neighborhoods where they are placed; the voting of bonds for erection of the first unit of a new city hall to cost $1,000,000,

and the scores of new junior, senior and elementary school buildings, told of in these pages. Recall that eight years ago Houston had no hospital worthy of the name for its sick and afflicted. Now it has Jefferson Davis Hospital, a joint county-city project; it supports generously the tubercular hospital; and it has a hospital for negroes, made possible through generosity of J. S. Cullinan. Let's not overlook the finest Farmers' Market in the South, erected over the bayou.

The police department in eight years has progressed from a "hick town" force to one of metropolitan proportions and appearance. Its traffic regulatory system is one that has been adopted as a model for many other cities.

The Houston fire department has been completely motorized in eight years, firemen are better paid and do not work 24 hours as they did eight years ago.

Every department of the city has undergone a tremendous expansion in the last eight years, due to growth in size, and public demand for various extensions of services.

Some idea of the growth of eight years is gleaned from the fact that assessed values of Houston have jumped from $183,023,260 in 1921 to more than $305,000,000 for 1928, and assessments for this year will likely touch $325,000,000. The revenues have nearly doubled with no boost of the tax rate and no general increase in assessments, so that Houston now collects nearly $9,000,000 annually in taxes.

Figures do not adequately convey how the activities of such departments as public health, social service, and kindred matters have grown until they now touch with healing hands many thousands of persons annually.

Houston's water department has kept pace with the city's growth, until today it has the finest water supply system in Texas, with the lowest rate for water, or 15 cents a thousand gallons for domestic use.

Some big things that have been brought about within the eight years in review are purely of an administrative nature, likely to go unnoticed, but of vast importance. For instance, eight years ago the schools were under control of the city government, through appointment by the mayor of the school trustees. The port district was under control of the city.

This mixture of governmental functions led to confusion and retarded the activities of all of them. One of the things done to simplify administrative problems was to divorce both the schools and port district from the municipal government. That required action by the state legislature. But under the new arrangement the port and schools have made remarkable progress, which has amply justified this reform in the administration of these public entities.

Also in the regulation of public utilities Houston has made tremendous

strides during the last few years. Flocks of jitneys sapped the revenues of the city street railway company eight years ago. They were abolished, and today Houston admittedly has a system of street transportation not surpassed by any city of similar size in the country, with a fare about the average for cities of the same size. It has more bus transportation than probably any other city in the nation.

A reduction in light rates has been made and the Houston Lighting & Power Company has invested here now $30,000,000 and is spending $6,000,000 this year to keep up with the progress of the city.

The coming of natural gas to Houston two years ago was another of the blessings which is to make for continued growth. Through three pipe lines, two from Southwest Texas and one from the great North Louisiana fields, Houston is now supplied by two different gas interests, with a boundless supply of natural gas, and has as low a domestic rate as any city of the country, with competitive industrial rates.

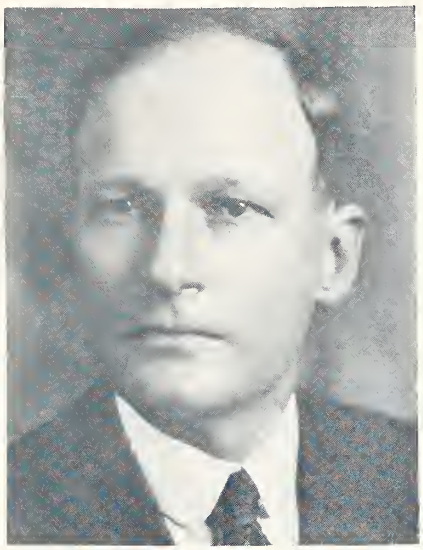
Houston is now in the midst of its great civic and industrial progress. For the first time in the city's history one administration passes out, and another comes in to find a heavy bond issue waiting to be spent. To start things off the new administration has $5,000,000, or more, to carry forward plans already made for improvements around the $5,000,000 Southern Pacific passenger terminal and for White Oak drive and general city improvements.

Houston is proud of her traditions. Her history is closely entwined with the history of those heroic men and women who carved their homes in the wilderness and then threw off the yoke of foreign oppression. Five flags of sovereignty have waved over the soil which is now Houston, and on which was once located the capital of Texas. Here men wrought in peace and war. Here flowered the glories of the old South, and then here came in 1928—

The democratic hosts of a nation to name their candidate for president, another epoch marker, for it helped to wipe from the slate of time the Mason and Dixon Line, and to plant the name of Houston among the cosmopolitan cities of America.

Of the future, of course, Houston has no fear. She has traversed the rocky road and has reached the smooth pavement, where the going is easier and even faster.

# IN MEMORIAM



W. A. MOORE

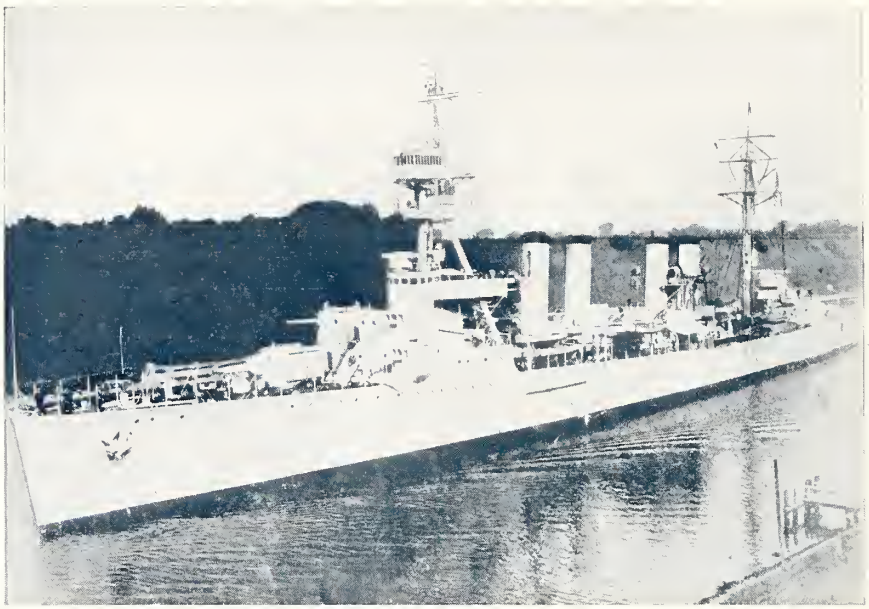
CLARENCE R. GEORGE

W. A. Moore, City Secretary for 11 years, died October 22, 1928. He was 42 years old.

Clarence R. George, Superintendent of the City Electrical Department since its organization in 1898, died August 5, 1928.

Jim H. Reeves, Judge of Corporation Court, died March 1, 1925. He was appointed in 1921.

*The passing of these trusted city employees was the cause for deep sorrow on the part of their co-workers and many friends throughout the city.*



# *The* U. S. S. HOUSTON

*By* William A. Bernrieder, *Secretary*
*"Cruiser Houston" Committee*

FROM the sons of ancient Phoenicia hails the inspiring custom of naming ships of war after national heroes of both war and peace. On down through the corridors of time to the present day, we find this beautiful custom still in vogue, with only minor changes.

As Americans, we adopted the custom of naming our commercial vessels after our various presidents and outstanding leaders in the realms of science, invention, engineering and commerce. Our vessels of war occupy a somewhat different category in that battleships are named after our States; cruisers and aircraft carriers after our cities, while destroyers, supply ships, colliers and other craft are named after our national heroes and distinguished constituents of the military and naval service.

The earnestness and persistence of the Cruiser HOUSTON campaign bore fruit, and on September 7, 1927, Secretary of the Navy Wilbur announced the new U. S. S. HOUSTON.

The tale of how the Cruiser Houston came into being is one of the delightful stories known to most everyone. Houston won this distinction in a contest, lasting nine months, in which over 80 important cities vied for the honor.

The new cruiser is now more than 40% complete. She is taking constructive form on the ways of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, at Newport News, Virginia. When 70% complete she will be christened and launched.

With a length of approximately 600 feet, and beam of 65 feet, this cruising sea-fighter will represent a tonnage of 13,000 tons, and will prove the ultimate in the cruiser class of war vessel, capable of a high speed of 40 miles per hour.

The complement of the U. S. S. HOUSTON will consist of about 35 officers and 600 men. Her armaments will consist of 10 8″ guns, each capable of hurling projectiles weighing 275 pounds. These batteries will be augmented by 4 5″ anti-aircraft guns. She will mount 6 torpedo tubes, and be equipped with seaplanes which can be easily and quickly catapulted in any weather, at any speed of the ship.

Her power plant will have high-pressure boilers of latest design and a complete refrigeration system.

The new HOUSTON'S cruising radius will be approximately 10,000 miles at a speed of 20 knots.

After launching and commissioning she will proceed to Port Houston to receive the handsome silver service a grateful city will present, with added ceremonies. Our namesake will then proceed on her long voyage, better known in naval vernacular as a "shakedown cruise"—for additional trial tests and availability measurements.

## "Cruiser Houston" Committee

GAVIN ULMER
*Vice-Chairman*

THOMAS H. BALL
*Chairman*

A. D. SIMPSON
*Vice-Chairman*

Oscar F. Holcombe

Mayor City of Houston

April, 1921—April, 1929

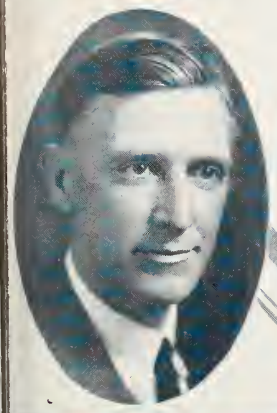
CITY COMMISSIONERS WHO HAVE LONG SERVED HOUSTON

*Left (top)—A. L. Anderson, Fire Commissioner; Right (top)—James H. B. House, Water Commissioner; Left (lower)—Ben S. Davison, Street and Bridge Commissioner; Right (lower)—H. A. Halverton, Land and Tax Commissioner*

INCOMING CITY OFFICIALS

*Top—Walter E. Monteith, Mayor. Left—H. A. Delery, Fire Commissioner. Center—S. A. Starkey, Street and Bridge Commissioner. Right—D. Barker, Land and Tax Commissioner*

*These members of the official family have faithfully served the City of Houston during the period of its greatest development*



Left to right, top row—H. S. Williams, Asst. Purchasing Agent, Managers Dept.; Mrs. M. H. Westerman, Acting City Secretary; T. W. Browne, City Assessor and Collector; George Richardson, First Assistant Fire Chief.

Second row—J. A. Fite, City Treasurer; A. C. Ford, Chairman, Civil Service Commission; Mrs. T. H. Eggert, Secretary of Censor Board; G. L. Fugate, Principal Assistant City Engineer.

Circle—W. A. McNabb, Supt. Garbage and Scavanger Dept.; Percy Heard, Ass't. Supt. of Police; Dr. H. C. Feagin, Ass't. City Health Officer; Will Smith, Fire Marshal.

Bottom row—Wm. A. Bernrieder, Secretary to Mayor; T. J. Harris, Ass't. City Attorney.

# LAND *and* TAX DEPARTMENT

# *Land and Tax Department*

By H. A. Halverton

SINCE 1912 the Somers System of Equalization of Taxable Values has been used in Houston, and found to be satisfactory both to the Tax Department and to the property owners. With this unit system in use, every tax payer can feel that he is on an equal basis with his neighbor, as far as taxation is concerned and that taxation is entirely removed from politics.

The Tax Department is recognized as one of the most important branches of city government, for through its office must flow all the money paid in for the operation of the city.

Due to the great growth in population and development of Houston during the past eight years, the work of this department has increased many fold. Some idea of this increase is shown by a comparison of the years of 1921 and 1928.

In 1921 the total assessed valuation of Houston was $183,023,610, while in 1928 this valuation reached $305,216,610, an increase of approximately 70%.

The amount of taxes collected for 1921, including the school taxes was $4,311,036.69 while for 1928 the collections were $5,146,951.58 which was for city purposes only, the school collections amounting to $3,090,837.43, making a total collection of current taxes amounting to $8,237,789.01.

Besides this amount the department handled in miscellaneous collections, including delinquent taxes from previous years, $2,851,418.71, making a total collection for the year of $11,089,207.80.

The cost of operation of the Tax Department in 1921 was $47,324.89 while in 1928 the total cost was $95,143.80. This includes the cost of collecting the school taxes as well as the city taxes and a credit from the Houston Independent School District of $34,773.35 is allowed which reduces the cost of operation of the Tax Department by just that much for the year of 1928.

From time to time during the past eight years, the city limits have been extended, and new territory has been taken in which is subject to taxes by the City of Houston; likewise the Houston Independent School District has extended its limits. All of this new territory has been revalued both as to the land and the improvements by the Tax Department.

Every possible effort has been put forth to collect all delinquent taxes.

The duties of the Tax Department are: First, to see that the assessed values of all taxable property are on a fair and equitable basis throughout

the city; Second, to compile all the necessary records so that the taxes can be collected; and Third, to see that all collections are made and deposited in the bank and turned over to the City Treasurer for distribution to the different funds.

Another activity that comes under the supervision of the Land and Tax Commissioner is the Land Department. In this department are handled nearly all negotiations for land to be purchased for the opening and widening of streets, boulevards, underpasses, obtaining right of ways for both sanitary and storm sewers, land for various activities such as stable sites, fire and police station sites, incinerator sites, parks and drives. All negotiations have been carried out with instructions from the City Council and subject to its approval.

In the years of 1927 and 1928, 214 parcels of land were purchased for the total consideration of $1,661,261.27. There were 167 buildings, stores and dwelling houses moved and relocated in connection with the various activities handled through this department.

The City Farm has been under the supervision of this Department since it was reopened in January, 1923. New buildings were constructed, new equipment installed consisting of trucks, tractors, mules and machinery of all kinds, and operation carried on in the most economical manner possible. The cost of operation for 1923 was $22,143.96. This, of course, included the cost of the new buildings and equipment. In 1925 the cost of operation was $17,686.58, while for the current year 1928 the cost was $14,681.48.

The Rental Department is also under the supervision of this department. For the year of 1928 $32,521.53 was collected.

OFFICE OF T. W. BROWNE
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR
CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

## ANNUAL REPORT OF COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR OF 1928

### COLLECTIONS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Miscellaneous | $ 487,198.83 | |
| Occupations | 15,156.11 | |
| Tax Certificates | 2,843.50 | |
| Bills for Collection—General | 701,104.60 | $1,206,303.04 |
| Bills for Collection—Special | 347,351.79 | 347,351.79 |
| Special Deposits | 23,405.80 | 23,405.80 |
| Current Tax—City | 5,078,304.43 | 5,078,304.43 |
| Delinquent Tax—City | 311,884.07 | |
| Interest | 43,430.01 | |
| Adv. and Costs | 15,901.20 | 371,215.28 |
| Delinquent Tax, City of Harrisburg | 19,570.98 | 19,570.98 |
| Current Tax—Library | 68,647.15 | 68,647.15 |
| Delinquent Tax—Library | 3,745.62 | |
| Interest | 529.39 | 4,275.01 |
| Miscellaneous Library | 5,828.39 | 5,828.39 |
| Current Tax—School | 3,090,837.43 | 3,090,837.43 |
| Delinquent Tax—School | 202,689.31 | |
| Interest | 26,110.18 | |
| Adv. and Costs | 4,327.70 | 233,127.19 |
| | | 10,448,866.49 |
| Balance on Hand December 31, 1927 | | 640,341.31 |
| | | $11,089,207.80 |

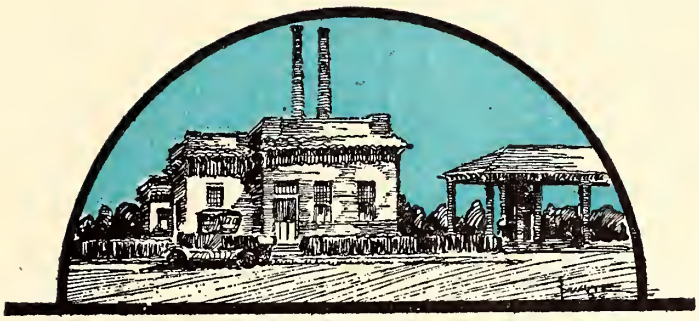
### DEPOSITS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $ 6,776,261.60 | |
| Special Deposits | 23,380.80 | |
| Library | 78,112.71 | |
| Special Funds | 347,351.79 | |
| School | 3,320,763.15 | 10,545,870.05 |
| | | $10,545,870.05 |
| Balance on hand December 31, 1928 | | 543,337.75 |
| | | $11,089,207.80 |

# *Statement Showing Valuation of Tax Rolls, Rate of Taxation, Amount of Taxes and Bonded Indebtedness of the City of Houston, Texas From 1921 to 1928, Inclusive*

| Year— | Land | Improvements | Personal Property | Total Valuation | Tax Rate | Amount of Taxes | Bonded Debt | Sinking Fund | Net Bonded Debt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1921* | $ 99,903,210 | $ 49,101,350 | $34,018,700 | $183,023,260 | $2.35 | $4,311,036.69 | *$16,132,000.00 | $2,526,263.85 | $13,605,736.15 |
| 1922* | 100,499,630 | 56,158,260 | 31,774,630 | 188,382,520 | 2.50 | 4,709,563.00 | *17,496,750.00 | 2,754,186.20 | 14,742,563.80 |
| 1923 | 104,611,840 | 59,265,100 | 33,420,690 | 197,297,630 | 1.82½ | 3,600,703.82 | 15,393,500.00 | 2,422,642.33 | 12,970,857.67 |
| 1924 | 106,203,370 | 68,732,670 | 30,320,620 | 205,256,660 | 1.75 | 3,692,055.88 | 16,883,250.00 | 2,571,213.07 | 14,312,036.93 |
| 1925 | 108,575,120 | 73,584,680 | 33,189,600 | 215,350,200 | 1.87½ | 4,037,967.42 | 18,693,000.00 | 2,768,946.56 | 15,924,053.44 |
| 1926 | 113,305,220 | 73,998,830 | 44,777,580 | 232,279,630 | 1.87½ | 4,355,458.66 | 24,582,759.19 | 3,068,366.24 | 21,514,392.95 |
| 1927 | 141,279,522 | 90,339,536 | 47,885,457 | 279,504,515 | 1.87½ | 5,231,439.48 | 27,491,509.19 | 3,221,799.93 | 24,269,709.26 |
| 1928 | 152,770,740 | 102,596,630 | 49,849,740 | 305,216,610 | 1.87½ | 5,723,024.99 | 30,972,259.19 | 3,089,435.65 | 27,882,823.54 |

*Includes School.



# WATER DEPARTMENT

# Water Department

By J. H. B. House

PROBABLY no municipal department is of greater and more vital importance than the water department. Pure water goes far toward promoting public health, and Houston is fortunate in possessing an abundant supply originating from forty-nine artesian wells of an average depth of 1200 feet.

The Water Department is headed by the Water Commissioner, elected by the people, and the department organization now consists of 165 employees. The history of the department shows a continuous growth in keeping with the growth and development of Houston.

At the time the City purchased the water works property or system, October, 1906, there was one pumping station known as the Central plant. In 1921 there were four pumping plants while in 1929 there are eight pumping plants located in various sections of the city.

There were 176,010 miles of water mains of all sizes, Jan. 1, 1921, and in January, 1929, there were 316,288 miles of mains.

January 1, 1921, there were 14,676 service connections and on January 1, 1929, there were 25,283.

January 1, 1921, there were 18,219 meters in service and on January, 1929, there were 40,548.

Some people wonder why there are not as many water meters as there are gas and light meters. Oftentimes one water meter will serve seventy-five or one hundred users. For instance in an apartment consisting of ten to twenty-five apartments, one meter serves all where a gas or light meter is installed in every apartment, and again one person may own several houses and one meter will serve these houses.

January 1, 1921, there were 4,025,286,610 gallons of water pumped into the mains while for the year ending January 1, 1929, there were 8,005,154,400 gallons pumped. It is very interesting to note that the average pumpage per day for the year 1906, or the time the City purchased said system, was 10,883,436 gallons and when the city had finally metered all the services the average daily pumpage, in 1914, was 5,353,074 gallons, which shows the enormous waste of water where it is not metered.

In 1927 the Central or parent plant was completely renovated and during this period the station was operated at all times. The building and its equipment are unsurpassed in the South.

*Partial views of Central Pumping Plant, two new artesian wells*

In 1926 and 1927 two reinforced concrete reservoirs were constructed, capacity four and fifteen million gallons, both of which are used in connection with the Central plant.

In 1928 a 750,000 gallon reservoir was constructed for the Houston Heights plant.

In 1926 a 300,000 gallon reservoir was constructed at the Scott Street Pumping Plant, when said plant was established. These reservoirs are of great assistance in maintaining an adequate supply of water as well as maintaining standard pressure.

During this period, 1921 to 1929, there were fourteen new wells added to the thirty-five existing wells.

The money spent during the year 1920 for maintenance work only was $153,372.89 and in 1928 for the same purpose $351,488.94.

The gross revenue for the department for the year 1920 was $325,736.79 and for the year 1928 it was $795,146.47.

The fundamental policy of the administration of the Water Department has been to return all accrued profits to the people in the form of extensions and general improvements.

The city's extensive paving activities during the past several years have required the expenditures of large amounts of money for renewal of services, moving fire plugs, and lowering and recorking mains.

Another fact to be considered is the tremendous volume of free water furnished to the city schools, charitable institutions, and various municipal departments.

There are many needed improvements which have been mapped out for the immediate future and will be put into execution as soon as money is available.

*Interior views of Central Pumping Plant*

*Interior and exterior views of one of the new, modern pumping plants*

# STREET *and* BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

# *Street and Bridge Department*

By Ben S. Davison

THE Street and Bridge Department of the City of Houston is a department of vast importance to the city. It is presided over by one of the four commissioners elected by the people. Yet its duties are not so broad as the name of the department would indicate nor as extensive as the popular notion.

The department has nothing to do with letting the contracts for paving any street, whether the pavement is hard surfaced, or consists of gravel, shell or topping. Neither has it to do with the repairing or maintenance of hard surfaced pavements. This work is done through general contract, let by the City Council and supervised by the City Engineering Department.

The department might more properly be termed the Municipal Housekeeper. As such the cleaning and sweeping of all paved streets is under its direction. It also has charge of the digging and cleaning of all ditches, a sizeable task in a city like Houston, with its flat topography. It also has charge of sprinkling city streets. It also constructs and keeps in repair the thousands of foot bridges and roadway bridges over drainage ditches. One important function of the department is to maintain the graveled and shelled streets.

In all these activities its work has been greatly increased within the last eight years.

Four years ago this department had equipment valued at $80,245. At the beginning of 1929 the department had equipment valued at $262,677, having accumulated in the four-year period equipment valued at $182,432, which was bought with current city revenues.

Within that period the number of motor propelled pieces of equipment in the department increased from 15 to 60, but at the same time the number of mules was increased from 78 to 141.

During the past four years the department has constructed over 10 miles of streets built of gravel, rock, shell and old brick, besides paving several skips in streets from these materials taken from streets that were being permanently paved. The only construction work the department has under its control is where the city has material to move from a street being permanently paved. This material is used on adjacent streets.

While four years ago this department had but a little more than 100 miles of paved streets to clean, it now has 205.4 miles, of which 183 miles must be cleaned daily when weather conditions will permit. These 183

*Views showing activities of the Street and Bridge Department and several types of equipment used*

miles were broomed 197 times last year at a cost to the city of $60,650. Sweepers traveled 39,979 miles and gathered up 14,658 yards of sweepings. The cost to the department, including disposing of sweepings was $1.93 a mile.

There are approximately 1700 miles of ditches, which the department looks after, and which require constant attention, and for that purpose the city is divided into districts with a foreman in charge of a gang of street workers in each district.

During the year 1928 it cost $129,885 for surface drainage. The department cleaned 789.4 miles of ditches, at an average cost of $136.50 per mile.

Improved streets were maintained at a cost of $197,498.56 for labor, material, and tools. Gravel cost $21,814.86 for 9,309.41 cubic yards f.o.b. track, freight being $18,020.14; and the cost of gravel at the pit was $3,794.72, readily showing that the freight was five times the cost of material.

Houston, from its geographical location, finds it impossible to secure suitable material for road work within a reasonable haul. In 1928 this department crushed 16,787 cubic yards of concrete, salvaged from streets which were permanently paved, costing the city $1.12 per cubic yard. If this material had been purchased instead of salvaged, it would have cost $3.24 per cubic yard on track.

The total grading done during 1928 by mules and maintainers was 7,221 miles. The average cost per mile with motor driven maintainers not including material or depreciation, $6.83. The average cost per mile with six mule grader outfit was $33.00. The average cost per mile to scarify and grade was $42.81. The average cost per mile to maintain 457 miles per year, including the cost of repairs, feed, fuel, material, labor, blacksmith, replacement of livestock, etc., was $629.53.

The department has received $2,000,584.92 for maintenance and replacement in the past four years, or an average of $500,146.23 for maintaining of streets per year, which includes the cleaning of permanently paved streets as well as the sprinkling and surface drainage. The total budgets for departmental improvements appropriated for the past four years amount to $176,069.75, which is the only item from which it is possible to create any assets, except for the few miles of street, built during the past four years, of an estimated value of $75,000.00.

A comparative statement on opposite page shows the amount of equipment the Street and Bridge Department owned in 1925, and the value thereof and the amount of equipment today.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EQUIPMENT OF STREET AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT—1925-1928

1925

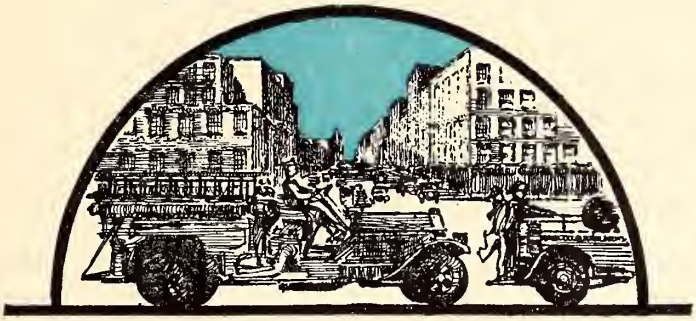
2 motor Driven Sprinklers
3 Mule Drawn Sprinklers
4 Motor Driven Sweepers
1 Steam Roller
1 Gasoline Roller
1 Mule Drawn Roller
38 Dump Wagons
9 Mule Drawn Graders
78 Mules
7 Trucks
3 Barns

VALUE—
*Including barns* ------ $80,245

1928

4 Motor Driven Flushers
4 Motor Sprinklers
2 Mule Drawn Sprinklers
9 Motor Driven Sweepers
1 Steam Roller
1 Hand Roller
3 Gasoline Rollers
1 Tractor Roller
20 Mule Graders
16 Motor Driven Maintainers
1 5-Ton Tractor
20 Trucks
138 Mules
65 Dump Wagons
7 Passenger Automobiles
5 Barns

VALUE—
*Not including barns*----$262,677



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

# *Fire Department*

By A. L. Anderson

NO DEPARTMENT of the city has had a greater development in recent years than has the Fire Department. Houston today has a Fire Department of which every citizen may justly feel proud.

A comparison of the department of ten years ago with the department as it exists now will give some idea of the size and scope of the present organization. In 1919 there were 179 men in the service, while today there are 367.

In 1924 the department answered 2,689 calls, while ten years ago it answered only 999. Ten years ago there were only fourteen fire stations—today there are twenty-five.

C. J. OLLRE

The annual fire losses in 1919 were $1,010,052.00, while last year they were only $1,599,744, which is really a great record when it is remembered that Houston has doubled in population during this period.

The budget for the year 1919 was $234,643.96, while the budget for 1928 was $615,823.33.

The entire department, with only five exceptions, is under Civil Service regulations and only the highest class of men are selected for service. In addition, the Civil Service regulations extend dicipline into the department and general efficiency is greatly advanced by this influence.

The department is composed of the following: the Fire Commissioner, who is the executive head; the fire chief, who is the active head; three assistant fire chiefs; five battalion chiefs; fifty captains, 78 chauffeurs, 219 firemen, one chief clerk and ten miscellaneous employees.

The double platoon system was established by the present fire commission. Formerly firemen were on duty for 24 hours at a stretch—now they work 10 hours and are off duty 14 hours one month and the order is reversed the next month. The double platoon system has greatly added to the efficiency of the department, and has made the men much more contented with their work and enabled the standard of the personnel to be greatly

*Houston's Fire Department ranks with that of the leading cities of the South, as can be judged by the modern buildings shown above*

raised. It allows the men to enjoy home life. It is being adopted by the progressive fire departments all over the country and indicates the determination of the Houston department to keep pace with the growth of other cities.

There are now two downtown fire stations, known as No. 1 and No. 2, which most adequately protect the downtown section and render efficient aid to ward stations as needed. No. 1 is located at Preston and Caroline and No. 2 is located at Bagby and Capitol, thereby affording protection from each side of Main Street and can reach the scene of a fire as quickly as possible.

The Fire Marshal's office now has six Deputy Fire Marshals, an Arson Investigator and a Fire Marshal. The deputies maintain a daily inspection in the business district, factory district, wharves, etc., seeking to eliminate fire hazards. There is no telling how many fires have been prevented through this channel for every hazard represents a possible fire.

Some new equipment has been added to the department in 1928, but constant additions are required in order to keep pace with the tremendous growth of the city. The fire department is now completely motorized, whereas ten years ago only a few pieces of commercial apparatus could be found, which was motor driven, the horse being depended upon, at that time.

The firemen make an annual inspection of every residence in Houston seeking fire hazards and their elimination. Fire Prevention is now taught in the Public Schools.

Houston's good fire record credit for 1928 was 12%, which is one of the best in the state, and has been gradually increased by the small percentage of fire losses in comparison with the insurance in effect and the vast amount of property involved.

The Houston Fire Department, with its 367 attaches and its 25 stations, is doing a wonderful work to save property and lives in Houston. During the year there has been some loss of life, both of citizens and brave firemen, who died in the discharge of their duty. But the department has saved many lives and it can proudly point to the fact that during the entire year not a single fire spread beyond the immediate building where it started. Several fires have been of such a nature that no amount of efficiency on the part of a department could have prevented some loss of life, or could have saved the buildings where the fire started, but they were in sections of the city where if it had not been for a highly efficient department, the city would undoubtedly have suffered from some great conflagrations.

Houston citizens generally appreciate the fact that the firemen encounter many dangers in the discharge of their duties. In response to every alarm, their lives are in danger and they are subject to many hazards. In ful-

*Not only the City of Houston, but also the great industries along the Ship Channel enjoy maximum protection from fire*

filling their duties they render a faithful service, braving the elements and unflinchingly performing their assignments in a courageous and highly efficient manner.

One of the most serious problems that has lately confronted the department is that of getting through traffic. In the old days of horsedrawn equipment, when there were few private motor cars, the dangers of making runs to fires were comparatively slight, but during the year several firemen have been injured on the way to fires. How to lessen this danger and still maintain the speed with which the department reaches fires is one of the problems that is perplexing the department.

The Fire Commissioner has sent out appeals to the public to not crowd the highways in the vicinity of fires and to always be on the alert to give fire equipment the right of way and there are indications the public is anxious to respond to this appeal.

The Houston Fire Department with efficiency a keynote and harmony a paramount factor, is a department of merit and serves the citizens faithfully, protecting their lives and their property.

The department now has 53 pieces of motor driven equipment in service, of which six steamers are held in reserve. No. 21 Fire station is so called and represents the fire boat "Port Houston," located at Wharf No. 5. It is the finest fire boat in the world and is manned by 18 men. It is electrically operated. This purchase was by co-operation between the city, the navigation district and the County of Harris.

*Houston's Modern Fire Fighting Equipment*

# CONTROLLER DEPARTMENT

# Controller Department

By H. A. Giles

NO PUBLIC funds can be paid out for any cause until the Controller Department has given its approval. Its jurisdiction in fiscal matters extends over every department of the City of Houston.

The City Controller is elected by the people and is the directing head of the department.

In line with the growth of the City of Houston between the years 1921 and 1928, the activities of the Controller's office have of necessity been greatly extended. Due, however, to the installation of book-keeping machines and a more scientific accounting system, the office force has only been increased by one clerk; there being at present seven employes as compared with six in 1921.

H. A. GILES

As an indication of the increased volume of work handled, the following data is given and for the purpose of comparison figures relative to the Schools have been eliminated:

| | 1921 | 1928 |
|---|---|---|
| Current Revenue | $ 4,504,167.33 | $7,872,513.52 |
| Expense | 3,253,729.41 | 8,013,299.34 |
| Expenditures out of Bond Funds | 147,897.78 | 5,206,211.24 |
| Bonded Debt | 13,565,000.00 | 30,972,259.19 |
| Bond Issues | 58 | 203 |
| Bond Funds on hand | 445,489.31 | 2,631,729.86 |
| Special Deposit Accounts | 692 | 3,197 |

The annexation to the city of Magnolia Park, Park Place, Cottage Grove and Harrisburg, has added an enormous amount of detail work.

The present accounting system is so devised as to be sufficiently elastic to care for twice the present volume of transactions without change.

The varied duties of the Controller are specifically prescribed by the City Charter, the most important being covered by Section 2 as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the Controller to superintend and supervise the

fiscal affairs of the City of Houston, and to manage and conduct the same as prescribed by this Charter and the ordinances of the City of Houston that are now or may be hereafter enacted, and said Controller shall prepare and publish in some newspaper in the City of Houston, not later than the 5th day of each month, a statement of the preceding month's expenses, which statement shall show the total amount paid in monthly salaries to all employees in each department of the city, and shall also show the amount paid on the weekly payroll to all persons working for the city by the day or week, and shall also show the cost of maintaining each department of the city government, and the total amount of each month's expenses so incurred; said statement shall also show the cost of improvement and extension work not properly classed as current expenses and not done under contract with outside parties, and shall show all other extraordinary expenditures, for interest on bonds, payments on bonds, etc., which statement shall be signed and sworn to by said Controller, and he shall permit any qualified elector at all reasonable hours to examine or inspect the books of the city, furnishing such party all reasonable assistance therein, and the Council shall pass suitable ordinances to enforce this section and provide suitable penalties.

"It shall be the duty of the Controller to keep books of account of the City of Houston, and to make such financial reports and statements as are provided by the terms of this act. His books of account shall exhibit accurate and detailed statements of all moneys received and expended for account of the city by all city officials and other persons, and shall show in detail the property owned by the city and the income derived therefrom.

"He shall also keep separate accounts of each and every appropriation made by the City Council, showing the date thereof and the purpose for which the same is made, and shall show for what each payment of any public money is made and the manner of making the same and to whom same is made.

"He shall keep a separate account with each department of the city government, and also such other accounts as may be necessary to show a complete financial statement of the city, and he shall be prepared at every regular meeting of the City Council to give such information concerning the finances of the City as the Council may require.

"All warrants or orders for payment of any public fund or moneys for any purpose shall be signed by the Controller and the Mayor. No warrant not signed by the Controller shall be authority for the payment of any public funds whatever, but the Controller shall in no instance, unless the money is in the treasury and in the fund against which it is drawn, sign any warrant or order for the payment of any sum or amount for any purpose; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the issue and sale of warrants to anticipate the current revenue for any one year, which

said warrants shall bear such rate of interest, not exceeding five per cent as the City Council by ordinance may prescribe.

"He shall not sign any contract nor make or execute any warrant or order for the payment of any sum of money unless the same be legal and all prerequisites and requirements shall have been complied with, nor until after an appropriation has been duly and legally made therefor.

"He shall, whenever deemed necessary, require all accounts presented to him for settlement or payment to be certified by affidavit, and he is hereby authorized to administer oaths, with authority to compel and require persons to answer such questions as may be propounded to them touching the correctness of any account or claim against the city. He shall require all persons who shall have received any moneys belonging to the city, and not having accounted therefor, to settle their accounts, and it is hereby made his duty from time to time to require all persons receiving moneys, or having the disposition or management of any property of the city of which an account is kept in his office, to render statements thereof to him; provided that no warrant or order shall ever be issued in favor of any person or corporation, or to the assignee or agent of any person indebted in any manner for taxes or otherwise to the city, unless such debt so due and owing to the city be paid.

"No disbursing officer of the city, nor any one having money in his possession for the account of the city, shall pay the same to any person or persons for the account of the city, except to the regularly designated officer or custodian of the public funds for the city, except upon draft or warrant countersigned by the Controller of the City of Houston, and signed by the Mayor; and the Controller shall not countersign any such draft or warrant until he has audited and examined the claim and found the same justly and legally due and payable, and that the payment has been legally authorized, and appropriation therefor made, and that the appropriation has not been exhausted.

"The City Controller shall, on or before the fifteenth day of March in each year, prepare and transmit to the City Council a report of the financial transactions of the city during fiscal year ending the last day of February next preceding, and of its financial condition on the said last named day in February. The report shall contain an accurate statement in summarized form and also in detail of the financial receipts of the city from all sources and the expenditures of the city for all purposes, together with a detailed statement of the debt of said city, and the purposes for which said debt was incurred, and of the property of said city, and of the accounts of the city with the grantees of franchises.

"In addition to the annual statement herein required and of the reports which may be demanded by the Council at any time, it is especially made

the duty of the Controller to be able to show at any time, and certainly upon or immediately after the first of each month, a comprehensive and accurate statement of the financial affairs of the City of Houston, and if any officer of any department or any employee of the City shall fail to make such stated or stipulated reports as and at the times required either by the Mayor or the City Council, it shall be the duty of the Controller to report such delinquency or failure to the Mayor, and further to state at any time any carelessness or negligence of any officer or employee in the making or stating of reports covering any matter within the range of the duty of said officer or employee."

# *Summary of Consolidated Balance Sheet*
## *As of December 31, 1928*

| Assets | Capital Accounts | Revenue Accounts | Sinking Fund Accounts | Trust Fund Accounts | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cash | $ 2,631,729.86 | $ 60,089.80 | $ 656,882.41 | $ 109,276.66 | $ 3,457,978.73 |
| Accounts due the City | 31,674.72 | 1,362,330.86 | 19,053.24 | ..... | 1,413,058.82 |
| Investments | ..... | ..... | 2,413,500.00 | ..... | 2,413,500.00 |
| Land, Building and Equipment | 46,990,592.92 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 46,990,592.92 |
| Material and supplies | ..... | 2,170.68 | ..... | ..... | 2,170.68 |
| Cash due from other funds | ..... | 104.00 | ..... | 174.50 | 278.50 |
| Bonds Issued, unsold | 270,000.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 270,000.00 |
| Total Assets | $49,923,997.50 | 1,424,695.34 | 3,089,435.65 | 109,451.16 | 54,547,579.65 |
| Liabilities— | | | | | |
| Warrants Payable | $ 37,368.08 | 114,487.24 | ..... | 1,941.93 | 153,797.25 |
| Invoices Payable | ..... | 5.00 | ..... | ..... | 5.00 |
| Vendor Lien Notes | 1,486,505.12 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,486,505.12 |
| Funded Debt | 30,972,259.19 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30,972,259.19 |
| Other Liabilities | 1,857,000.00 | 558,514.54 | ..... | 107,405.23 | 2,522,919.77 |
| Cash Due to Other Funds | ..... | 174.50 | ..... | 104.00 | 278.50 |
| Total Liabilities | 34,353,132.39 | 673,181.28 | ..... | 109,451.16 | 35,135,764.83 |
| Assets over Liabilities | 15,570,865.11 | 751,514.06 | 3,089,435.65 | ..... | 19,411,814.82 |
| Total Liabilities and Surplus | $49,923,997.50 | 1,424,695.34 | 3,089,435.65 | 109,451.16 | 54,547,579.65 |

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

# *Police Department*

By Tom C. Goodson

TOM C. GOODSON

WHEN Houston doubles its population in the past eight years; broadens its area to seventy-two miles square; issues upwards of two hundred million dollars in building permits; erects on an average of fifteen hundred to two thousand buildings per year; floats millions of dollars worth of bonds to cover its growth; counts daily bank deposits from four to five millions; disburses payrolls over one million, twelve hundred thousand dollars weekly; increases its educational and social institutions by one hundred per cent; becomes the first inland cotton port in the world with the latest scientific equipment; leads the entire Southwest in the purchase and adaptation of modern utilities; registers proportionately as many motor driven vehicles as any city its size in the U. S. and last, but not least, is the best advertised city in the United States, morally and physically, it behooves the Police Department to show results in accordance with this development.

In 1921, 13,159 arrests were made—in 1928, 109,471; in 1921 the valuation of lost and stolen property reported was $710,872.86—in 1928 it was $1,265,430.56; in 1921 the valuation of lost and stolen property unrecovered was $150,641.27—in 1928 it was $249,017.36; in 1921 the valuation of lost and stolen property recovered was $560,231.59—in 1928 it was $971,413.20; in 1921 the number of index cards on file in the Identification Department was 33,807—in 1928 it was 77,815; in 1921 the fines paid into the Corporation Court were $55,062.00; in 1928 they were $99,569.00; in 1921 the total police revenue was $54,858.90—in 1928 it was $103,447.00; in 1921 the cost of operation was $304,349.31—in 1928 it was $583,369.63. The city's expansion activities have averaged about 200 per cent increase, while through strict economy the Police Department has covered consequent contingencies at an increased operating cost of 90 per cent, while arrests have increased 8 times, and fines collected, nearly double.

From the makings of a department 8 years ago it has sprung fungus-like into one of importance, not only in itself but in the entire Southwest.

From apathy it has gradually increased its small cumbersome human motive power into a fairly large body of live energetic team workers, who now move with systematic alertness under the command of practical and experienced superior officers.

From an old fashioned inactive body, it has expanded with modern progressiveness into a recognized and expedient factor. The morale of the department has been watched and a vast amount of patience has been expended in the slow education of sturdy reliable men, and the careful selection and placement of men best adapted to the work required of them. The department, today, is depending upon itself, gradually acquiring sufficient brawn, brains and energy to keep its human wheels well apace with the city's aggressive progressiveness.

The roughneck, old time "Pistol Toter"; the brawny double fisted piece of humanity, yelling at the public in an uncouth and ungentlemanly manner is now fast becoming a thing of the past. He is being supplanted by the lithe young fellow, who considers the public first, approaches one in a courteous manner, and would rather impress one with the idea that he had unthoughtedly violated a city ordinance than to roughly man-handle him and drag him to the station.

Respect for citizenship is being daily inculcated into the mind of every member of the force. Special endeavor is made to secure men of self control, courtesy and alertness in thought and action.

With a paramount problem of traffic to solve; with the desire in mind of curbing, as far as possible, the automobile menace to personal safety by a cautious police vigilance; and realizing the absolute necessity of coping with traffic, a traffic squad was inaugurated on July 15th, 1921, with hand semaphores.

Drifting back to July 15th, 1921, then forward to December 28th, same year, date of the first electric signal on Main and Preston; then forward again to July 3rd, 1922, the date of the installation of the electric tower and the general electric signals on the principal Main Street intersections, you have the following very interesting table of traffic arrests:

| 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 | 1926 | 1927 | 1928 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1774 | 3559 | 8280 | 36,596 | 52,625 | 77,743 | 94,888 | 85,285 |

Today Houston's traffic system is widely known and commented upon all over the United States.

A Mounted Traffic Squad was inaugurated April 20th, 1927.

Briefly sketched, the Houston Police Department began its real era of achievement in 1921, since which date it has actually forged ahead, by leaps

and bounds, in its endeavor to cope with an unprecedented expansion of five times the volume of operations in 1928 as in 1921.

Such crimes as murder, burglary, robbery, hi-jacking, etc., have fluctuated. The final disposition is long and the proceedings tedious; preliminary hearings have to be made, legal technicalities combated; circumstantial evidence weighed and convincing proof submitted to the jury, and in many cases it is months before the public actually knows the outcome, and no matter how heinous the crime, often forgets it before the actual sentence is meted out. But whether convicted or not, the Police Department has the cumbersome task of collecting and substantiating the evidence, and its work goes on continuously.

Naturally, noted crooks, such as confidence men, pick-pockets, etc., flock to the larger flourishing cities, but during the last eight years Houston has been more free of this class of gentry than ever before, due to the reason that explicit instructions are in order for their arrest as soon as they arrive in Houston.

Due credit must be accorded to the Detective Department, which has accomplished good results, along all lines. In 1921 it handled 42 burglaries; in 1928, 398; in 1921 it handled 8 murders; in 1928, 41; in 1921 it handled 18 robberies; in 1928, 124; in 1921 it handled 590 thefts; in 1928, 755.

Especial mention should be made of automobile recoveries, as they predominate. In 1921 it recovered 630 automobiles, while in 1928 it recovered 1882

The greatest development in any department has been in that of the finger print, as it has kept well along the lines of advancement of the International Association of Identification, of which it is a member. In 1921 it handled 1041 subjects, while in 1928 it handled 2022, aside from generally keeping up with a number of exchanges, finger-printing thousands of local violators, carding and indexing them.

The Policemen's Burial Fund Association was inaugurated in 1921. It borrowed enough money to bury its first member. Today it has $50,000.00 in banks, accumulated by membership dues and annual balls.

The present incumbent in office has been on the Police Force since October 2nd, 1911. He was appointed Chief of Police on January 11th, 1923.

Many interesting pages could be written, and hours of time devoted to outlining the achievements of the Police Department during the past eight years, but suffice it to say that the principal feature is that it has sprung as first said, from the makings of a department into one of importance not only in itself but in the entire Southwest.

# CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT

# City Manager Department

By George E. Woods

GEORGE E. WOODS

THE Holcombe Administration created the position of City Manager on April 18, 1921. This position was created in order to relieve the Mayor of a large amount of detail work, and coming under the supervision of the Manager are the Purchasing Department, City Market, City Auditorium, Censor Board and Sam Houston Hall. While the creation of this position was an experiment by Mayor Holcombe, eight years of operation of these various departments under the jurisdiction of the City Manager has clearly demonstrated that the tax payers have been saved a large amount of money by the operation of these departments under one head; and further, that all of these departments can be operated more successfully and managed more efficiently under the guidance of one man, whose experience and training has been along business lines, and who possesses the various qualifications which are necessary in order to justify placement in the position of City Manager of Houston.

Outside of the varied and extensive duties of the manager, as the active and directing head of a number of city departments, this municipal executive renders many other services. He is continuously in consultation with the City Commissioners and the department heads, concerning all matters coming before the City Council from time to time, and recommendations covering business policies are continuously presented by him with each issue as it arises. In addition to these extensive activities he serves as a personal representative of the Mayor in practically all matters affecting the business policies of the city government. One of the most important divisions of the manager's departments deals with the purchasing of all materials and supplies necessary in the operation of the municipal corporation. In order to demonstrate the magnitude of this division alone, the order purchases and requisitions from all departments during the past year amounted to the vast sum of approximately $1,500,000.00, and averaged

seventy-one purchase orders per day. The purchases were made at an expense of $12,960.87. During the past year this department, in conjunction with the City Controller, saved the tax payers approximately $15,000.00 in cash discounts by the prompt payment of all bills during the ten day period. All purchases for the city are made on competitive bids, or competitive prices, quoted at the time of purchase. The City Manager has under his jurisdiction the City Market. There are from time to time many complex problems to solve relating to the policies of this market, which at the present time houses sixty-two tenants, and acts as a service source to curb farmers whose period of sales were covered by 57,282 trips to the market during the past year. The market has been operated at an expense of $41,882.18, while revenues have reached a total of $50,907.17, making a net profit of $9,024.99.

The Municipal Auditorium operated during the past year at an expense of $24,358.95. During this period there were one hundred and ninety-two engagements with approximate attendance of 475,000 people.

The Holcombe Administration established a City Garage in order to save money on all motor repair work on the city's 205 pieces of various automotive equipment, required to operate a large municipality of this kind, and to keep this equipment in perfect mechanical condition at all times to enable them to be used in active continuous service in carrying on the city's business. The operation of this garage provides the opportunity for all equipment to receive immediate attention when needing repairs; thereby saving the usual delay experienced in motor repair work in outside garages. Further than this the general wear and tear on this equipment is much less for the reason that they are always well oiled, properly greased, watered and in good condition mechanically before being used. During the year 1928 there was an average of fifteen jobs received and attended to the same day.

The Censor Board has under its direct supervision and control the amusement life of the city and it is held responsible at all times for the moral tone of the city's amusements. Censorship, as inadequate as oftentimes it is, has proven necessary. However, it prevails that censorship is a means to an end, that of eliminating the immoral movie, and is noticeably effective in the building of better audiences for the better movie. The Houston Censor Board's standards rate very high. A brief tabulated report of the Secretary follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Programs reviewed by Secretary | 12,000 |
| First run movies reviewed by Secretary | 11,000 |
| First run movies cut for eliminations | 2,600 |
| Rejected in toto | 225 |
| Vaudeville, Plays, Road Shows, Dance Halls, Skating Rinks and Swimming Pools reviewed by Censor | 1,015 |

The Censor Board was created and is operated under a city ordinance. The Board is comprised of twelve members, including the chairman and secretary, and is appointed by the Mayor. All serve without compensation except the secretary, who receives a salary. Coming under the provisions of the ordinance creating the Censor Board are the following public amusements: Theatres, Moving Picture Shows, Dance Halls, Amusement Parks, Skating Rinks, Natatoriums, or swimming pools.

The City Manager's Department is operated with a staff of forty-one employees, divided as follow: Purchasing Department, three; City Auditorium, nine; Sam Houston Hall, three; City Hall and Market, eighteen; City Garage, three; Censor Board, one, and four miscellaneous employees.

Greater Houston today has a population of 300,000 people and in order for the municipal government to serve the citizenship efficiently and to their best interest generally it is essential that business acumen be included in the activities of the municipal organization. Therefore, the creation of the position of City Manager and the beneficial effect and successful results obtained by this executive have meant, among other things, the saving of money to the tax payer and an extension of a wholesome influence over the business affairs of the City Government.

# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

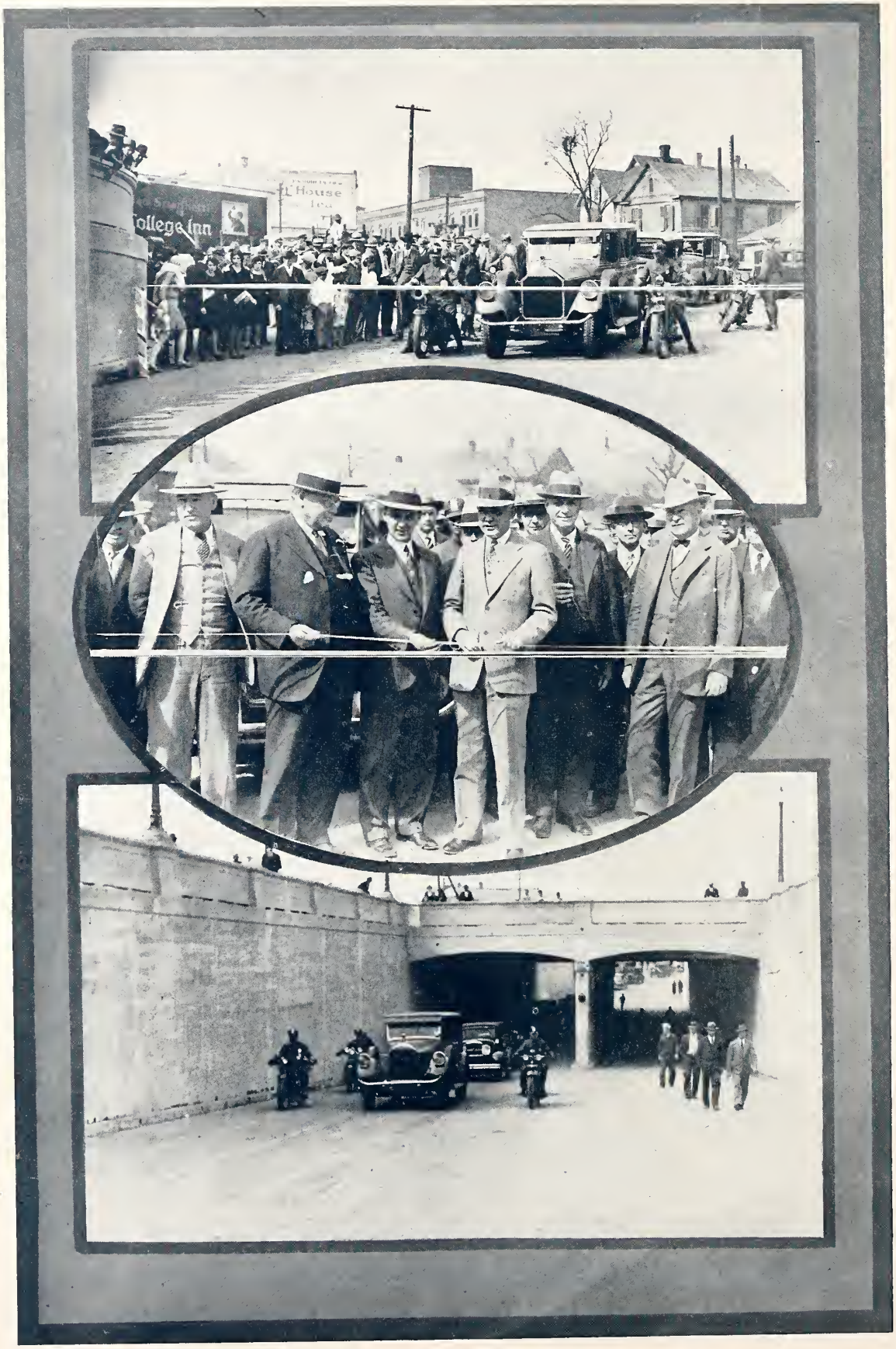
# *Engineering Department*

By J. C. McVea

J. C. McVEA

THE volume of work handled by the City Engineering Department for the year 1928 was larger than for any previous year and exceeded that of 1927 by approximately three-quarters of a million dollars. The increase was occasioned principally by larger expenditures from the Drainage Bond Fund by $862,577.00, and by smaller increases from the Farmers Market Bond Fund, Bayou Improvement Bond Fund, North Side Sewage Disposal Plant Bond Fund, Sanitary Sewer Bond Fund, paving assessments against property owners, paving done by others, Gravel Paving Bond Fund, MacGregor Drive Bond Fund, and sanitary sewers constructed by others. Substantial decreases in volume of work done out of the Waterworks Bond Fund, Roadways to the Turning Basin Bond Fund, Subway Bond Fund, Macadam Paving Bond Fund, and sanitary sewers constructed by others outside the City are noted.

In building construction the city established a new record for permit valuations of $35,319,503.00. Houston maintained her position of first in Texas and in the South for the third and second consecutive years, respectively, and advanced from seventeenth place in the Nation, which she held in 1927, to sixteenth place in 1928. The F. W. Dodge Corporation report lists Houston as one of the five cities in the United States on its "honor roll;" that is, cities which each month of the year had permit valuations of a million dollars or more, and that registered an increase of twenty per cent or more over the previous year. These cities are Washington, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Houston. The ranking seventeen cities in the Nation, in order of building permit valuations in 1928, are; New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Boston, Cleveland, Washington, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Baltimore, San Francisco, Yonkers, Newark, Houston, and Seattle. Of the fifteen cities ranking Houston in building construction, eight have smaller valuations than in 1927, while seven show gains.




*Photographs of the official opening of the new Franklin Street Underpass, connecting Downtown Houston and Navigation Boulevard*

The forces of the Engineering Department cooperated in the erection of Sam Houston Hall and Hospitality House, which were constructed for the purpose of accommodating the National Democratic Convention, which met in Houston in June, 1928.

The year 1928 brought about two small extensions of the city's area, aggregating 0.073 square mile and 0.8 mile of platted streets. The total area now within the city's boundaries is 68.7811 square miles, with a mileage of platted streets of 910.587. The total length of the City's boundary line is now 49.12 miles, and the extreme diagonal distance across the City from Clinton Island to the west side of Memorial Park is 13.42 miles. The maximum distance east and west and north and south is 10.56 and 7.8 miles respectively.

Under the law passed by the Fortieth Legislature giving cities jurisdiction over the platting of contiguous territory, the City Engineer, as a member of the City Planning Commission's committee on approval of plats, approved during the year 1928 fourteen plats outside of the City, having an aggregate area of 3.412 square miles, with 14.585 miles of platted streets. Inside the City twenty plats, aggregating 1.308 square miles, with a platted street mileage of 9.134 miles, were approved.

Sidewalk construction by property owners under permits issued aggregated 840,602 square feet and that constructed by property owners in new additions aggregate 334,397 square feet, or a grand total of 1,174,999 square feet, or the equivalent of 55.6 miles of sidewalks four feet in width. The total length of combined curb and gutter construction, exclusive of that in connection with street paving, aggregated approximately five miles.

The total operating expense of the Engineering Department in the various budget accounts was as follows:

Engineering Department Proper $152,457.65.

Operation of Sewage Pumping and Disposal Plants $89,595.37.

Maintenance and Operation of Sanitary Sewers $63,069.41.

Repairs to Paved Streets $77,503.47.

Repairs to Bridges $35,661.23.

The total revenues received by the Department were $57,257.58, an increase of $2,203.69 over the year 1927. These revenues accrued from the following items: Building permit fees $27,236.70; Surveys for the public $3,056.75; plumbing permit fees, $19,028.00; other revenues, $7,736.13.

The total number of permits issued by the Engineering Department was 20,570, an increase of 2,443 over the year 1927. This total was made up of 5,648 building permits, 4,194 plumbing permits, 3,011 drain-laying permits, 1,627 sidewalk permits, 4,869 street opening permits, 185 surveys, and 1,036 miscellaneous.

Work done by the drafting room forces covers much miscellaneous work

*Houston's streets now assure the motorist comfort, convenience, and the maximum of safety*

and the completion of the following drawings: Construction maps, 139; bid tabulations, 174; profile and alignment maps, 277; City sectional maps, 20; total maps of all kinds, 610.

In addition to the handling of the routine work of the Engineering Department, the preparation of plans and specifications for all engineering work and the supervision of construction thereof, the Department maintains all steel and concrete bridges, hard surface pavements, storm and sanitary sewer systems, and operates nineteen sewage pumping plants, five sewage disposal plants, one sludge dewatering plant, and one waterworks pumping plant.

The city's outstanding accomplishment during the past two years, which has now been brought to practical completion, is a system of roadways connecting the Port Terminal facilities with the business and warehouse districts of the city, at a cost to the city, the property owners, Harris County, and the various railroads cooperating of more than five millions of dollars.

These improvements consist of one wide paved main thoroughfare on each side of the upper Houston Ship Channel, with other thoroughfares serving as convenient connections across the channel and tying in the various wharves to the main arteries.

The main highway on the south side of the Ship Channel is known as Navigation boulevard, while that on the north side is called Clinton drive. Navigation boulevard connects with Franklin avenue at the St. Emanuel street intersection. Franklin avenue leads to the business district of the city and crosses Main street two blocks south of the Ship Channel.

Clinton drive will serve principally to give easy connection between the wharves and the cotton compresses, warehouses, and manufacturing plants on the north side.

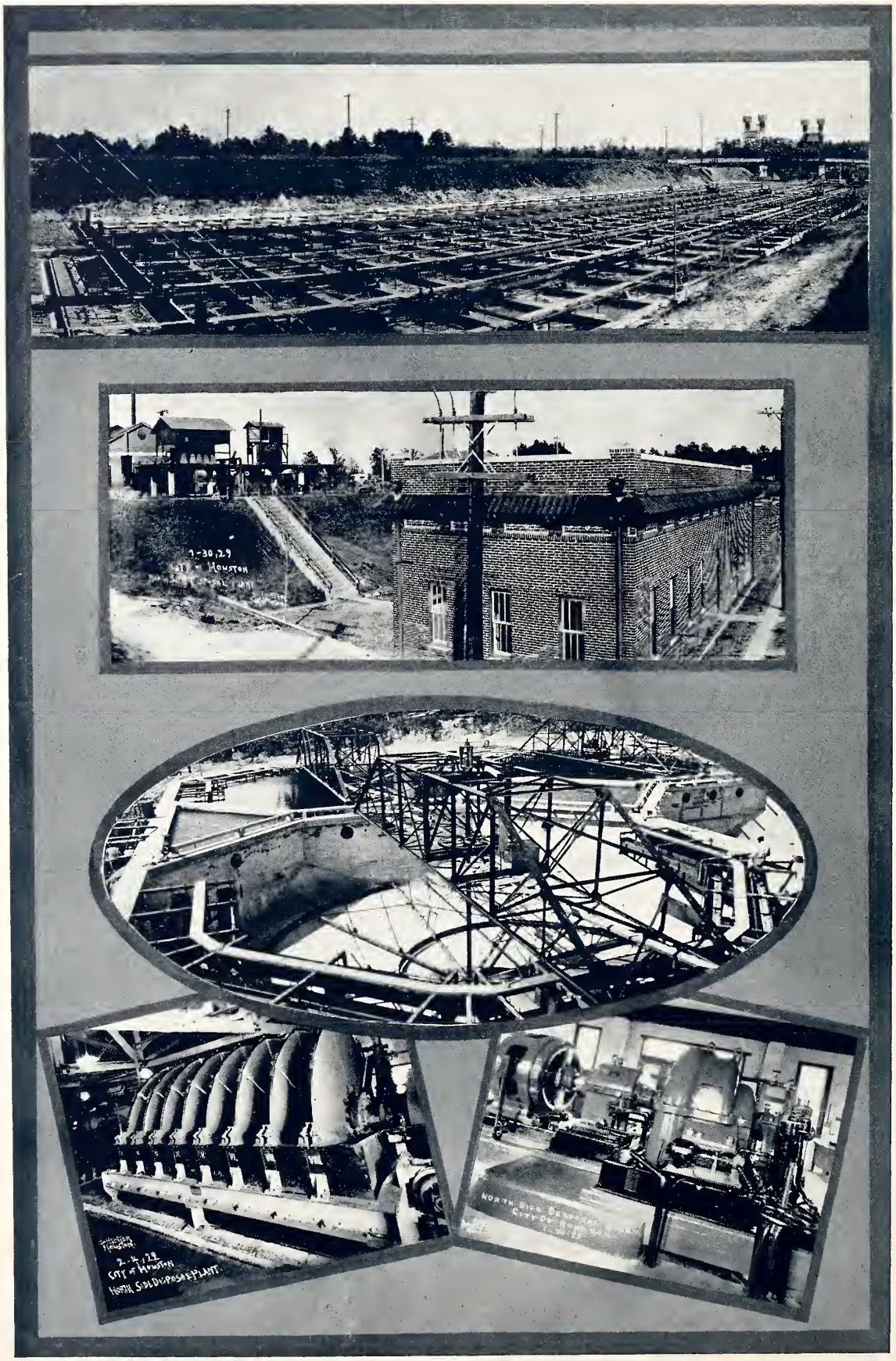
The most westerly connection between the main thoroughfares is provided by Marsh and Hill streets, crossing the channel on the old Hill street bridge. Hill street has recently been paved as a link in the thoroughfare system. Marsh street is now a narrow paved street which is to be widened and repaved to complete the project.

The most easterly connection is provided by Wayside drive, South Harbor drive and 69th street bascule bridge, all of which were completed about a year ago just above the Turning Basin at the head of the 30-foot channel.

About midway between the Hill street and Wayside connections is Lockwood drive, an entirely new street now being paved and which crosses the Ship Channel by means of the newly constructed vertical lift Lockwood drive bridge.

South Harbor drive serves to connect the various south side wharves and Ship Channel industries to the main thoroughfares.

Seventy-fifth street, which is now being paved from Harrisburg road to Wharf No. 3, will serve not only as a connection between the wharves,




*Exterior and interior views of the North Side Disposal Plant*

South Harbor drive and Navigation boulevard, but will also connect these thoroughfares with Canal street and Harrisburg road, both important arteries in the eastern section of the city.

Navigation Boulevard from the underpass at Commerce avenue to Wayside drive, and Clinton drive from Harbor drive to Lockwood drive, have a right of way width of 120 feet.

Navigation boulevard from Wayside drive to 77th street and Wayside drive from Navigation boulevard to 69th street bridge have a single brick paved roadway 60 feet wide on an 80-foot right of way.

Clinton drive from Hill street to Lockwood drive, when completed, will have a 52-foot paved roadway. That section from Hill street to Bringhurst street is now completed.

Seventy-fifth street is now being paved with brick.

South Harbor drive has a brick paved roadway.

Lockwood drive has a 120-foot right of way on which is being constructed two 22-foot brick paved roadways, separated by a 16-foot esplanade.

Franklin avenue from Chartres street to Louisiana street is paved with a 2-inch asphaltic surface on 6-inch concrete base while the block from Chartres to the west end of the underpass is now being paved with brick.

Clinton drive from the Public Belt railroad underpass to Galena, and McCarty street from Clinton drive to Market Street road, were paved by Harris County. That section of Clinton drive from the Public Belt underpass to McCarty street is 56 feet in width and all other sections are 20 feet in width.

Clinton drive passes underneath two double tracks of the Southern Pacific Railway, Galveston Division, and under two main leads of the Public Belt railway by means of separate structures near each other, thus economizing in excavation for the approaches.

Another underpass separates the grade of South Harbor drive and the Southern Pacific Railway, Galveston Division, main line near the South Side Wharves.

The roadways included in this project aggregate 16,181 miles.

One of the major projects of the year was the construction of the Farmers Market which is located on an 8-acre tract of land bounded by Texas avenue, Smith street, and Preston avenue, and thru which Buffalo Bayou originally made a sharp "S" curve.

The bayou channel was straightened and the sides below water level protected by sheet steel pile bulkheads on each side, maintaining a 50-foot clear channel. The old channel has been filled and the market constructed over the reclaimed area and over portions of the new channel.

The market was constructed to provide proper facilities thru which the

*Wide paved thoroughfares and concrete bridges greet the motorist throughout Houston*

citizens may purchase the products fresh from the farms and gardens of the surrounding territory and direct from the farmers themselves, and to enable the farmers to sell at retail to the housewives at a reasonable price, without contributing to the support of the middleman, and to avoid the necessity of selling to dealers in bulk.

The use of the sidewalks around the City Hall for the display and sale of farm products, which has been practiced for many years, has long since become unsatisfactory, unsanitary, and a source of serious traffic congestion.

The space underneath the market floor, when completely filled in, together with a paved area west of the channel, will accommodate approximately twelve hundred customers' cars.

Two concrete approach slabs are provided, one for pedestrian customers, and one for the farmers' entrance.

The total area covered by the entire structure is 130,000 square feet, of which the approaches comprise 15,000 square feet. The area of the main slab under shed roof is 78,164 square feet.

A brief statement of the additions made to the city's utilities and facilities by construction and by extensions of the city limits during the period 1921 to 1928, inclusive, is given below:

Six garbage incinerators were constructed and one added by city limit extension.

The mileage of storm sewers was increased from 57.992 to 136.892 miles, or 136 per cent.

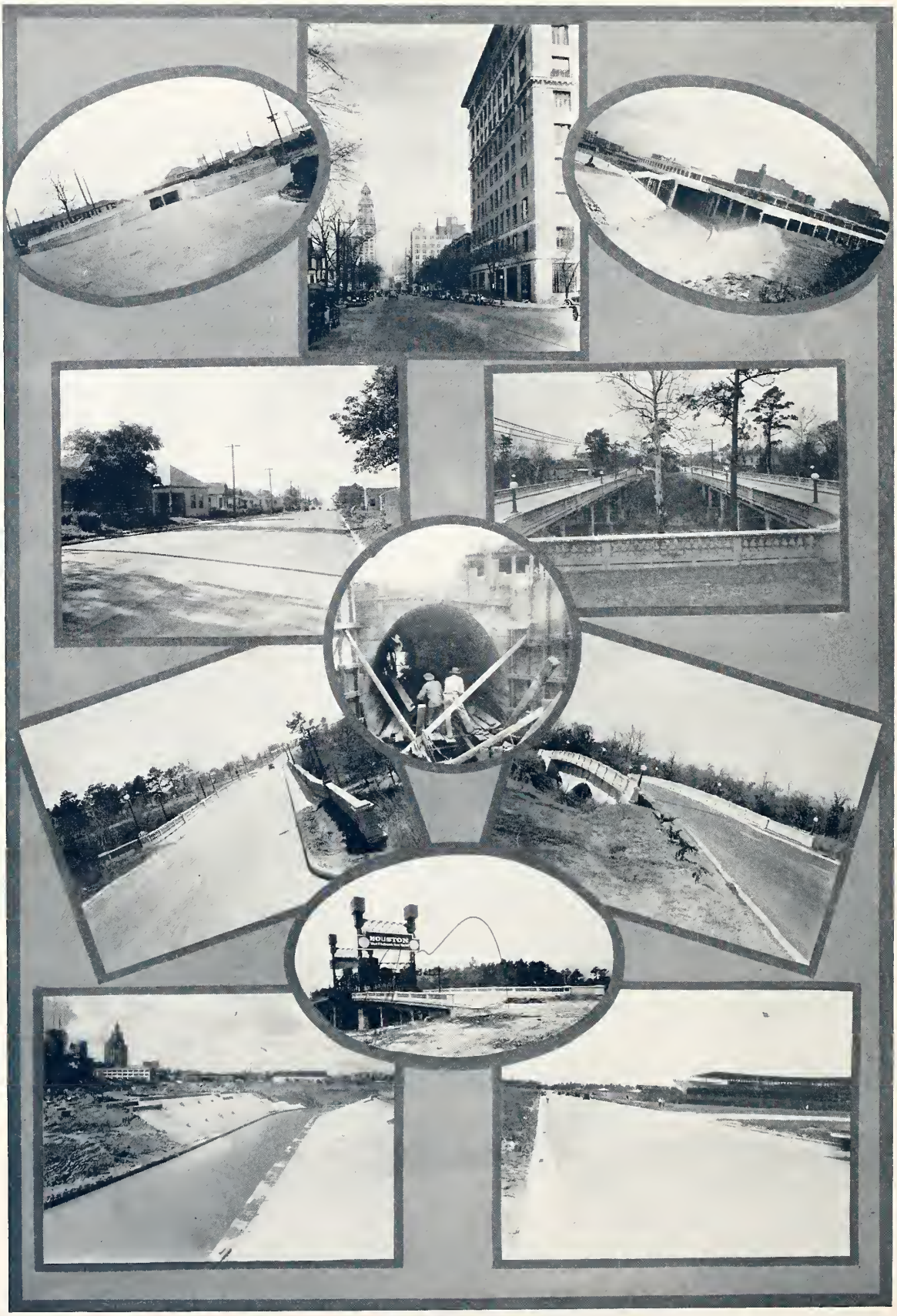
The mileage of sanitary sewers was increased from 174.429 to 483.031 miles, or 177 per cent.

The mileage of paved streets was increased from 262.37 to 716.964 miles, or 173 per cent.

The North Side Sewage Disposal plant has been enlarged and remodeled, increasing its capacity to seventeen and a half million gallons a day, and new equipment installed in the sludge dewatering plant, providing a capacity of five and a half tons of fertilizer in 24 hours.

Three sewage disposal plants have been taken over by the city thru city limit extensions. Ten sewage pumping plants have been constructed, and four acquired by extensions of the city limits.

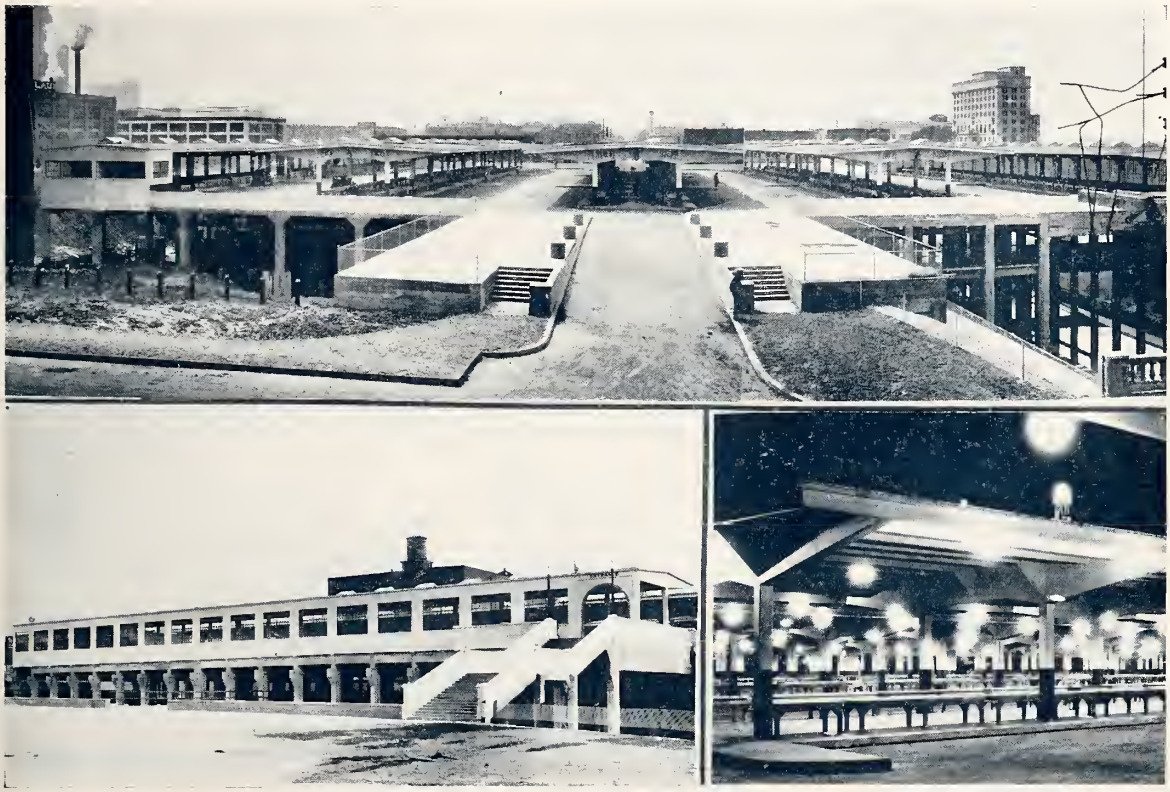
Waterworks improvements, consisting of five new wells, reservoirs, and new pumping equipment, increasing the capacity at central waterworks plant to forty-five million gallons daily; the construction of a water pumping plant with three deep wells at Scott street; construction of deep wells and storage at the Heights station, and the building of a new water pumping station at the West End plant, and two pumping plants acquired by the extension of the city limits, with the construction of 76.5 miles of water mains from 4 inches to 20 inches in diameter, and the addition of 44.8 miles




*Mile after mile of concrete—where once was dirt*

of mains by City limit extensions, constitute the increase in the waterworks during the period. The above water main extensions provide an increase in the mileage of 85 per cent.

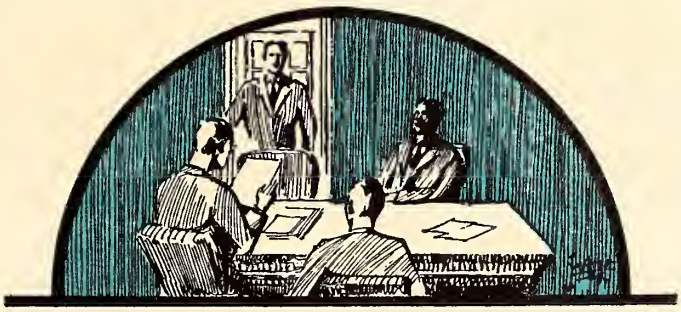
During the eight-year period new bridges to the extent of $2,152,676.00, subways and underpasses valued at $779,540.00, water reservoirs with a value of $394,480.00, wharves with a value of $412,807.00, aggregating a total of $3,779,504.00, have been designed and constructed under the supervision of the Engineering Department.



*Views of Houston's new, ultra modern, City Market*

## *Statement of all Paving in the City on January 1, 1921, With Amounts Constructed in Succeeding Years and Total on December 31, 1928*

| Year— | Hard Surface on Concrete Base | | Bituminous Surface | | Total Hard Surface | | Gravel and Shell | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total at Beginning | Miles | Sq. yds. | Miles | Sq. yds. | Miles | Sq. yds. | Miles | Sq. yds. | Miles | Sq. yds |
| 1921 . . | 62.381 | 1,344,141.19 | 0.138 | 4,992.23 | 62.519 | 1,349,133.42 | 199.859 | 2,220,202.09 | 262.378 | 3,569,335.51 |
| Constructed | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1921 . . | 2.883 | 64,072.91 | .346 | 6,061.50 | 3.229 | 70,134.41 | 25.616 | 250,288.80 | 28.845 | 320,423.21 |
| 1922 . . . | 5.572 | 113,192.56 | .... | ..... | 5.572 | 113,192.56 | 14.045 | 142,296.14 | 19.617 | 255,488.69 |
| 1923 . . . | 9.311 | 234,922.12 | 2.07 | 35,234.0 | 11.381 | 270,165.12 | 35.896 | 387,745.97 | 47.277 | 657,911.09 |
| 1924 . . . | 23.064 | 440,650.98 | 1.213 | 20,722.99 | 24.277 | 461,373.97 | 24.651 | 254,322.92 | 48.928 | 715,696.89 |
| 1925 . . . | 21.55 | 451,627.89 | 4.384 | 53,467.88 | 26.934 | 505,092.77 | 30.92 | 335,683.44 | 56.854 | 840,496.21 |
| 1926 . . . | 15.185 | 287,692.18 | 3.455 | 41,457.2 | 18.63 | 329,149.38 | 10.398 | 119,923.0 | 29.023 | 449,072.38 |
| 1927 . . . . | 21.987 | 562,972.63 | 11.481 | 117,025.62 | 33.378 | 679,998.25 | 18.236 | 190,801.64 | 51.614 | 670,799.89 |
| 1928 . . . | 21.253 | 520,966.96 | 7.302 | 41,033.14 | 28.163 | 605,676.1 | 23.137 | 343,999.3 | 61.692 | 955,999 4 |
| Total Dec. 31, 1928 . . | 205.417 | 4,131,587.85 | 54.199 | 567,762.65 | 259.224 | 4,693,026.5 | 457.348 | 4,975,730.83 | 716.964 | 9,675,081.33 |



# LEGAL DEPARTMENT

# *Legal Department*

By Sewall Myer

HOUSTON'S Legal Department is a branch of the city government of great importance, and has performed its functions in a creditable manner. The present administration completely re-organized and perfected this department, and the legal organization now consists of the city attorney, one assistant city attorney in charge of the Legal Department at the City Hall; one assistant city attorney, who renders service as prosecutor in the Corporation Court, and one legal stenographer.

SEWALL MYER

During the past 8 years the work of this department has been varied and extensive. The department has written scores of public improvement contracts, each of which necessitated the preparation of several bonds; has prepared a large number of general contracts, many deeds, leases, releases, and in short, has prepared all legal documents and papers pertaining to the city.

In addition to prosecuting many thousands of cases in the Corporation Court and advising the Police Department on all matters thereto as well as co-operating with the Fire Commissioner and Fire Marshal in eliminating and preventing fire hazards, this department has handled practically all the bond matters for the city.

In addition, it has examined and approved all plumbers' permit bonds.

It has conducted all hearings before the Civil Service Commission, and practically all paving hearings before the City Council.

In addition to all of which, this department has handled without outside help and at no additional expense to the city a great number of cases in all of the courts extending from the Justice Court to the Supreme Court of Texas, and the United States Federal Court, and has been unusually successful in the results obtained therein.

With the rapid expansion of the city and its great growth the necessity of opening new streets and widening older ones has caused the Legal Depart-

ment to be called upon to do a great deal of work in the filing and prosecution of condemnation proceedings.

All the duties incumbent on an office lawyer are placed upon the Legal Department of the city. All construction contracts and contracts of every nature in which the City of Houston is involved, are prepared by this department, as are all ordinances and resolutions for the City Council. With the widening, extension and opening of streets, and with the extension of the Park Department the city purchases a great deal of land, and the examination of abstract and rendering opinions on titles consumes no inconsiderable amount of time.

Some of the other duties of the department are the examination of abstracts, the preparation of all the ordinances, resolutions, motions, and reports. The members of the Legal Department also act as legal advisors to all the city officials in their official capacity.

The City Council refers all claims asserted against the city to the Legal Department for an opinion and report, and also refers all matters in which any question of a legal nature is in anywise involved. This department prepares all franchises granted by the city to public service corporations, railways, corporations and individuals, approves all bonds of any nature executed to the city, and handles all litigation in which the city is a party, plaintiff or defendant.

The court work involves the preparation and trial of cases in the United States Courts, State District Courts, County Courts and Justice Courts, and in all the appellate courts. The litigation of the past several years has been heavy and has involved a number of important cases.

In addition to all of the duties above mentioned the Legal Department prepares the election proceedings, and conducts a heavy general correspondence thruout the State and Nation.

The duties of the Legal Department involve a vast and comprehensive amount of individual and co-ordinated effort.

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# *Health Department*

By Dr. A. H. Flickwir

DR. A. H. FLICKWIR

WITH the rapid growth of a city a public health department takes on an added importance, and Houston's health department has kept pace with the progress of the city in other respects. The activities of this department now touch the lives of many thousands of persons annually, in a multitude of ways.

The result has been that the death rate in Houston has been held to a very low figure. Dr. A. H. Flickwir, City Health Officer, says in his last report the death rate for last year was 11, while the infant mortality rate will probably go as low as 76, which means the number of babies which die under one year of age out of each 1000 born.

Within the last eight years one of the important things done for public health was the construction of the Jefferson Davis Hospital, a city-county institution. Prior to that Houston had made no provision for its indigent poor, except an old frame building given the city by the Federal Government, after abandonment of the training camp at Camp Logan. The building was in no way modern, leaked and was wholly unfit to house the well, let alone the sick.

It now maintains the Jefferson Davis Hospital with 150 beds, thoroughly modern in every respect, and on the staff of physicians there are the most eminent practitioners in the city, giving freely of their services to the relief of the poor and sick. The city has also made provisions for enlargement of the hospital and funds have been provided through a bond issue.

Another great improvement is the elimination of unsightly and unhealthful dumps in the city, where formerly were dumped great piles of the city's refuse. At the beginning of 1921 the city had two incinerators of 50-ton capacity, and during the year removed 42,966 tons of garbage.

In 1928 the city had five incinerators, of 10 units, with 320 tons capacity, and has provided fund for another incinerator of 240 tons capacity.

*Views of the various divisional work of the Health Department*

In 1928 the garbage department collected 140,306 tons of garbage, at a cost of $1.40 per ton as compared to $1.90 eight years before.

Within the last eight years several new divisions have been added to the city health activities, of vast importance to the city.

One is the creation of the division of rodent extermination, made necessary because Houston had become a world port and there was great danger of infectious diseases being imported to the city through the port.

Another division was that of mosquito control, which has succeeded in eliminating from the city the disease carrying breeds of mosquitoes.

Another division established is that of industrial hygiene, for the inspection of industrial plants, which has done much to conserve the health of the workers of the city.

A division of sanitation has also been established, which has charge of the enforcement of city ordinances regarding the sewer connections and sanitary plumbing in the homes of the city.

The Health Department has established close contact with the United States Department of Public Health and volunteer health associations and spreads health information by broadcasting over the radio and through the daily newspapers.

The medical inspection in the city schools and the department of school nursing in the city is one of the best in the South.

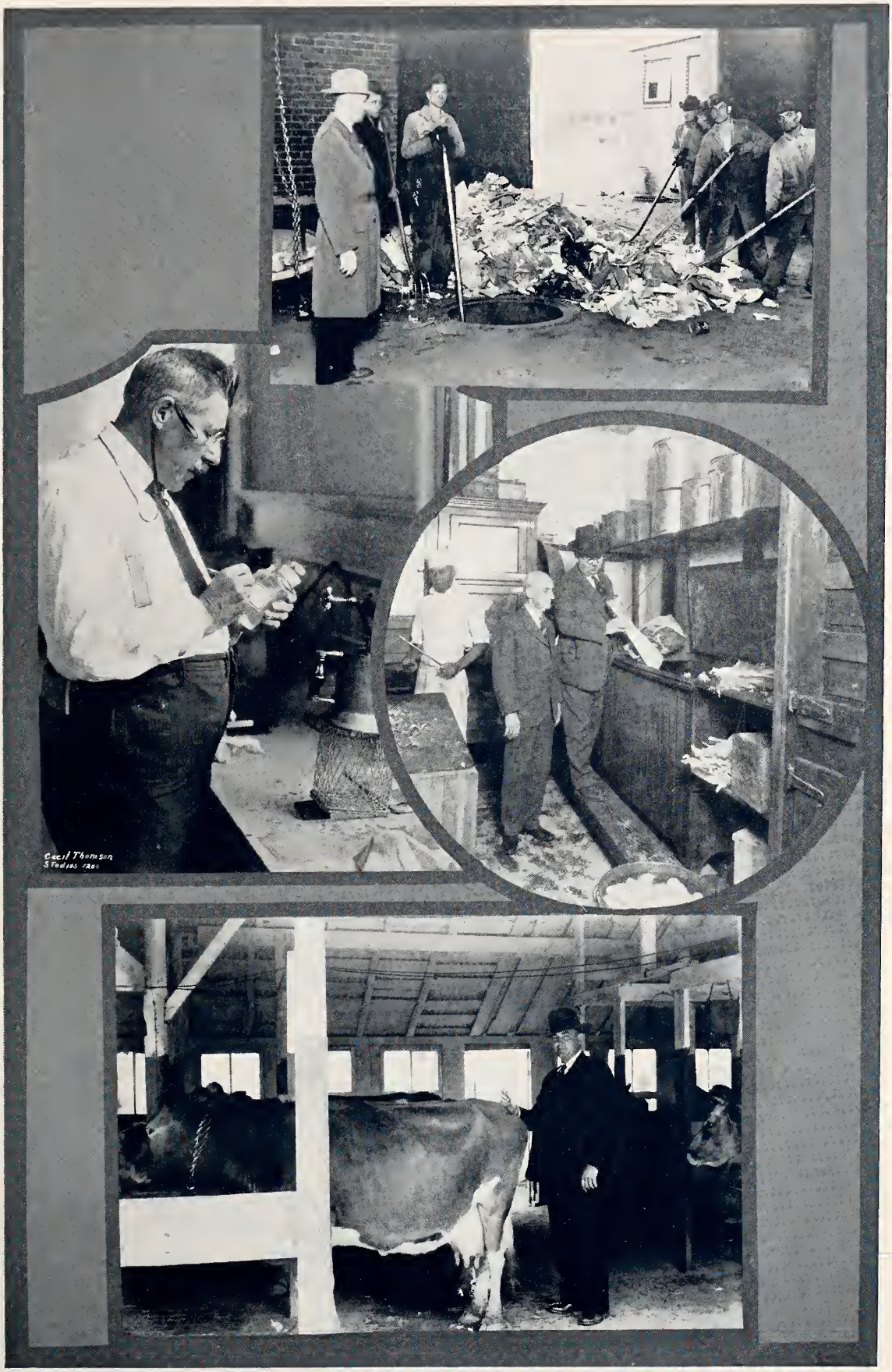
The city maintains a laboratory which makes thousands of examinations of milk and other food products annually and has done much to add to the health of the city. It has a milk inspection department which has made vast progress the last few years and to this is largely due the lessening of infant mortality.

In 1923 the city's first meat inspection ordinance was passed and a veterinary department established. Prior to that time the people had had no assurance the meat slaughtered locally was wholesome or healthful.

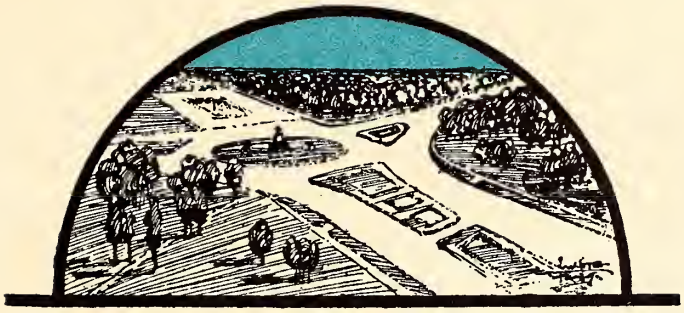
The following statistics give some idea of the amount of work done by the Health Department during the last year:

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of visits by city physicians to poor | 4,709 |
| Number of calls made at city physicians | 2,251 |
| Number of prescriptions filled free | 32,602 |
| Total number of laboratory examinations made | 26,010 |
| Total number of food inspections | 50,834 |
| Total fines collected by Food Department | $ 745 |
| Inspections of dairy farms | 3,877 |
| Cows tested for tuberculosis | 12,171 |
| Inspections made by Sanitary Department | 24,906 |
| Number of lots on which weeds were cut | 8,000 |
| Total number of meat and slaughter house inspections | 5,982 |
| Total number of rats exterminated | 2,130 |
| Number of patients admitted to Jefferson Davis Hospital | 4,394 |
| Number of operations performed | 1,598 |
| Total number of clinical patients | 21,175 |
| Number tons garbage removed | 140,306 |

*Top picture shows the Mosquito Control Division at work—at the bottom is one of the members of the Industrial Hygene Division on call*




*A few of the daily tasks of Houston's Health Department*



# PARK DEPARTMENT

# *Park Department*

By C. L. Brock

C. L. BROCK

WHETHER a city gets the name of being a good city to live in depends to a great extent on its park system and Houston, during the past eight years, has created a worthy name for itself by the acquiring and improving of parks. The improvements have been such that the Department of Commerce and Labor, in a recent report, makes a very favorable comment on the parks of Houston, comparing this city very favorably with a number of the larger cities of the country.

Eight years ago the total park area was only slightly over 600 acres, while today there are over 2,500 acres devoted to parks and playgrounds. Eight years ago there were practically no improvements in the parks, while today many of them are improved.

Hermann Park was a raw piece of woodland while today Hermann Park is known far and wide over the country as one of the best designed, most useful and most interesting parks in the United States. In this park alone, during the last eight years, many roads have been built, surfaces graded and drainage installed.

In this park there has been established a Municipal Golf Course, which is known as one of the best. It is open the entire 12 months of the year and is played on by more than 100,000 persons annually. It has a complete watering system and all conveniences necessary to help for the players' comfort.

Another feature established in this park, by the Holcombe administration, is the zoological garden, which is known throughout the land as one of the premier zoological gardens of America. While it is not the largest in size and number of specimens, the plan for the garden was worked out from the ground up, and if carried to completion, will serve for a city at least five times the size of our present city.

The large aviary in the zoo is known as one of the best and has been copied by a number of zoos. The artificial trees in the aviary, built of re-

*Scenes in Hermann Park Zoo to delight both the old and young*

inforced concrete, are so nearly perfect, as to defy close inspection. The waterfall is a good representation of West Texas lava rock. The sea lion pool, costing $5,000.00, also constructed of reinforced concrete, is a faithful reproduction of the stratified rock of the Texas-Mexico border and it is the only sea lion pool, so far known, in America, that has both a pool of salt water and a pool of fresh water.

On account of the mildness of the climate in this region and the method of handling wild animals in our zoological garden, we have been most successful in the breeding of jungle birds and beasts and since the establishment of the zoo, there have been raised to maturity; 15 lions, one leopard, one monkey, two zebus, 15 African wild sheep, two Karakul sheep, eight wolves, one buffalo, one guan, two kangaroos, four Vulturine guinea fowls and numerous other specimens, such as deer, pheasants, etc.

The building of the Miller Outdoor Theatre, at a cost of more than $50,000, from funds given to the city by the late Jesse Miller, is one of the outstanding improvements in the park. Thousands gather here to listen to Municipal Band concerts and other public entertainments.

It is pleasing to know that the entrance to Hermann Park, designed in 1914 by the late George E. Kessler, is even after these years and the increase in automobile traffic, completely successful in the handling of this increased traffic at the intersection of the Park and Main boulevard.

In this entrance scheme and just inside of the park, there has been erected by the citizens of Houston and Texas, what is considered a very heroic statue of General Sam Houston.

Another feature established in Hermann Park, which should not be overlooked, is the Rose Garden where more than two thousand rose bushes of nearly one hundred varieties furnish flowers for the inspection of all those who care to visit the garden.

It should not be overlooked that during this administration, there has been acquired one hundred and thirty-three acres as an extension to this park, all of which has been cleared of underbrush and on a part of this extension, three new baseball diamonds have been built.

Three tennis courts were built in Hermann Park during this period and they are played on daily, unless bad weather interferes. More than five miles of bridle paths have been constructed in this park and they are continually used by riders.

Memorial drive planted to live oaks, in memory of the boys who lost their lives in the World War, there being one tree dedicated to each soldier with a proper bronze tablet with the name of the soldier to which the tree is dedicated, is destined to be one of Houston's most interesting drives. This drive is a part of the Outer Belt Road system and during the past eight

*Modern buildings, flowers and nature's wonders as found in Houston's Parks*

years, ornamental boulevard lights have been placed along the drive the entire distance of two miles.

A Natural History Museum now housed in a small building in the zoo enclosure, should become one of our most interesting features, as it will contain mounted specimens of Texas wild life in addition to such specimens as die in the zoo and also will contain an herbarium with a complete collection of the native plants of Harris County and of Texas with other interesting and economic plants of the world.

The greatest increase in area during the past eight years has been in the acquisition of Memorial Park, being the grounds used by the Government to train the men from Illinois into soldiers for the World War. This tract consisting of 1503 acres, contains some of the finest native forest trees and woodland in this vicinity. Little has been done for the improvement of this property and outside of the establishment of a golf course, picnic grounds, a botanical garden and a nursery, little should be done to destroy the native trees.

The nursery has been started in a small way and is now furnishing thousands of trees and shrubs for beautifying other parks and parkways.

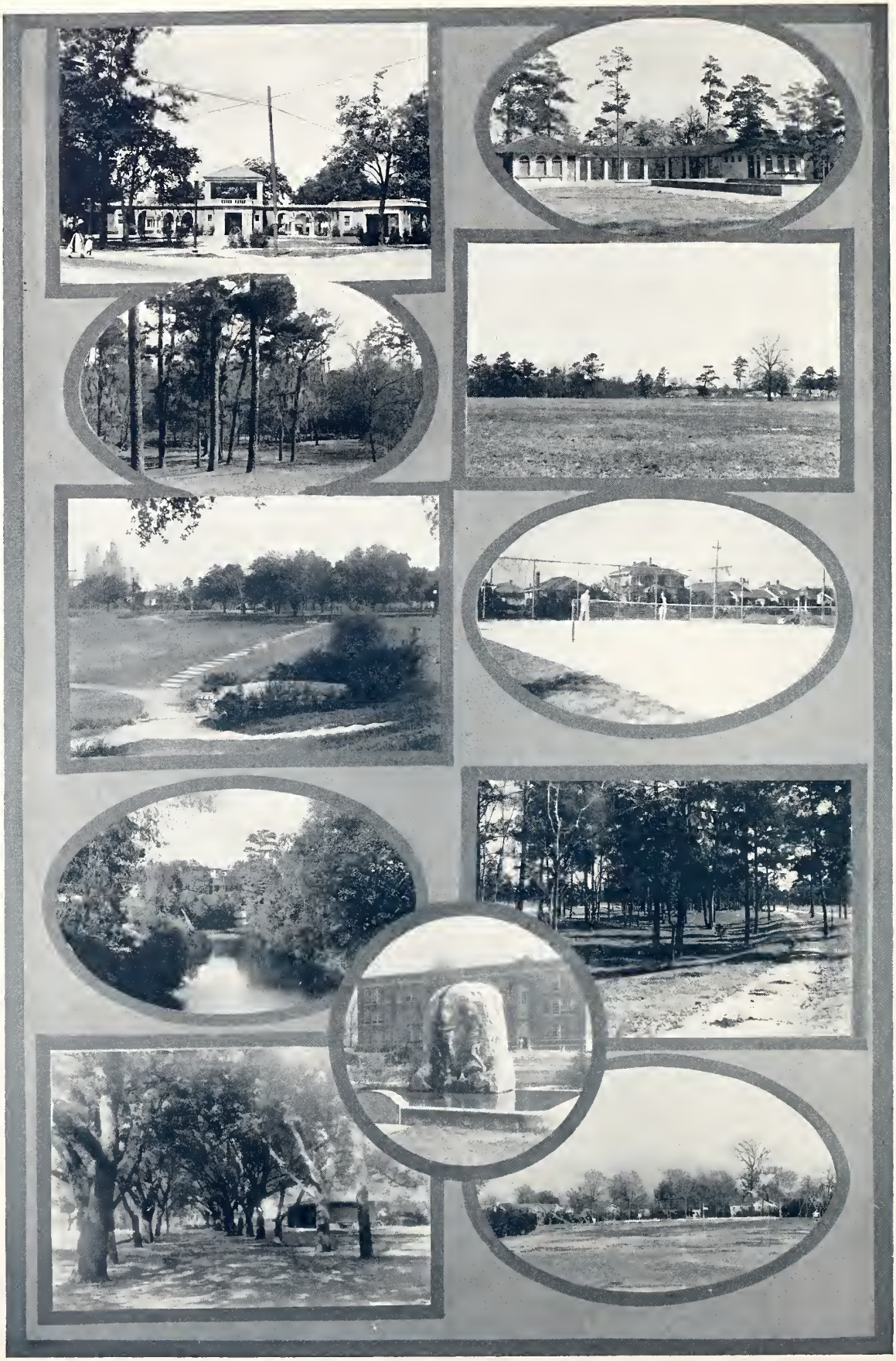
Park expenditures in 1919 for all expenses were $16,859.75. This has been increased by very liberal allowances each year by the present administration until the 1928 expenditures were $229,413.14. These figures are given simply to illustrate the interest that has been shown by the administration in the parks and their appreciation of the value of parks to a modern city.

Eight years ago there were no Bayou drives and very little interest was taken in our water courses, because as a rule they were lined with tin can dumps and being the most broken and roughest ground within the city limits, they were of very little value for building sites, but with the construction of drives along these water courses and the improving of the land between the drive and the streams as parkways, our cheapest lands are now becoming the most valuable and with liberal foresight the administration has gone ahead and secured all available frontage that more Bayou drives may be built.

Nothing illustrates these statements better than the changes that have taken place along Buffalo drive between the new civic center and Shepherd drive. White Oak Bayou and Brays Bayou are being transformed in the same way.

Many new and valuable park sites have been secured, including the gift of one hundred and eight acres by the H. F. MacGregor Estate, known as MacGregor Park.

Irvington Park is another valuable addition of park property amounting to forty-two acres, located on the North Side in a rapidly developing



*Random spots of beauty that emphasize the development of Houston's Park area*

section and where such a park is badly needed. This park has been partly improved and plans are made for future development.

Another park recently purchased is Magnolia Park, of thirty-four acres, located near Magnolia Park Addition in the territory where such a park is badly needed.

Charlton Park of nearly six acres was acquired by the annexation of Park Place and with the buildings and swimming pool, makes a very valuable playground. A new tennis court has just been completed in this park.

Cherryhurst Park was purchased by the present administration and is a very complete playground which has been further improved by adding a new limestone tennis court.

Martha Fleming Park in Southampton, of two and one-half acres, was recently acquired by gift from E. H. Fleming and has been completely improved as a neighborhood playground.

Peggy Park, a two-acre tract on Almeda Road, was given by the H. F. MacGregor Estate and has been developed as a beauty spot.

Milroy Park is another park that was acquired during the past eight years, being formerly the Heights Junior High School property. This has been developed into a fenced neighborhood playground.

Hennessy Park, on the North Side, has also been improved by being made into a fenced neighborhood playground.

Root Square, our only downtown square, was given to the city by heirs of the Root Estate and has been completely developed as a neighborhood playground.

In addition to all of these many of the parks have been improved by the adding of tennis courts, baseball grounds, the planting of shrubbery and the building of flower beds.

It is impossible in the space allowed to the Park Department to fully tell of the many activities carried on and of the improvements made in the parks during the past eight years, and to tell of all that has been done would take a book fully as large as this, but enough has been told to show that the improvements and developments have kept pace with the city as it has progressed in all other lines.

*Scenes and buildings in Hermann Park, where every Houstonion may find pleasure and relaxation*

## PARKS OWNED BY THE CITY OF HOUSTON, 1928

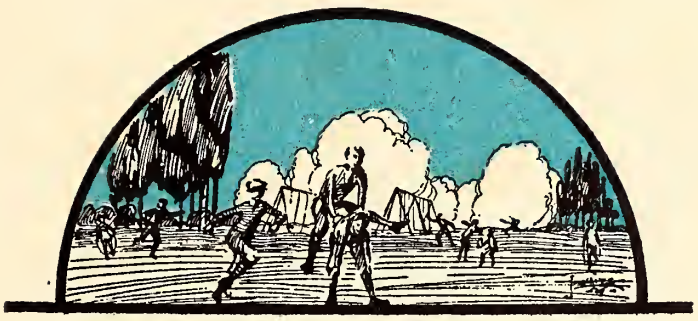
| Name— | Area In Sq. Ft. |
|---|---|
| Bute Point | 788 |
| Peggy Point | 450 |
| Brashear Point | 150 |
| Total Acres | .32 |

| | Acres |
|---|---|
| Memorial Forest Park | 1,503.00 |
| Hermann Park | 545.12 |
| MacGregor Park | 108.00 |
| Cleveland Park | 72.93 |
| Stude Park | 42.39 |
| Irvington Park | 42.00 |
| East End Park | 34.57 |
| Woodland Park | 26.03 |
| Jim Hogg Park | 23.41 |
| White Oak Park | 23.16 |
| Sam Houston Park | 20.43 |
| Eastwood Park | 10.77 |
| Emancipation Park (Col.) | 10.00 |
| Charlton Park | 5.87 |
| Elizabeth Baldwin Park | 5.00 |
| Carter Park | 5.00 |
| Settegast Park | 4.14 |
| John Marshall School Park | 4.00 |
| City Greenhouse & Nursery | 3.52 |
| MacGregor Parkway | 5.70 |
| Riverside Park | 4.00 |
| San Jacinto School | 3.00 |
| Proctor Plaza | 2.77 |
| Martha Fleming Park | 2.50 |
| Peggy Park | 2.13 |
| Milroy Park | 2.00 |
| Cherryhurst Park | 1.88 |
| Root Square | 1.43 |
| Martha Hermann Square | 1.43 |
| Hennessy Park | 1.40 |
| Riverside Tennis Park | 1.05 |
| Buffalo Parkway | 81.50 |
| White Oak Parkway | 7.94 |
| Memorial Parkway | 13.73 |
| Sabine Park | 3.00 |
| 38 Parks, Acres | 2,625.12 |

## STATEMENT OF PARK EXPENDITURES—1921-1927

| Year | Pay-Rolls | Maintenance | Dept. Impts. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1921 | $ 43,512.45 | $ 8,602.82 | $ 2,255.21 | $ 54,370.48 |
| 1922 | 48,648.41 | 33,553.71 | 15,411.53 | 97,613.65 |
| 1923 | 54,010.60 | 17,554.58 | 33,757.65 | 105,322.83 |
| 1924 | 89,836.00 | 31,964.00 | 92,808.39 | 214,608.39 |
| 1925 | 108,425.00 | 40,460.00 | 67,115.00 | 216,000.00 |
| 1926 | 119,220.00 | 48,000.00 | 26,000.00 | 193,220.00 |
| 1927 | 120,690.00 | 54,310.00 | 25,000.00 | 200,000.00 |
| 1928 | 140,500.00 | 59,500.00 | 35,000.00 | 235,000.00 |

NOTE—1928 is appropriation, not expenditures.



# RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# *Recreation Department*

By Miss Corinne Fonde

MISS CORINNE FONDE

WHILE the coming of great skyscrapers and the tremendous development of industrial and commercial concerns have made of Houston an increasingly good place in which to *make a living,* other forces have been at work simultaneously to keep it an increasingly good place in which to *make a life.*

The Recreation Department is one of the latter, its service being that of offering pleasurable and healthful opportunities of expression in the leisure hours to all of the city's people, regardless of age, race, sex, creed, condition in life or special interest.

Prior to 1921, this service was not a full fledged department of city government, but rather a little bureau of the Houston Foundation.

January 1, 1921, the Recreation Department was created by ordinance a full fledged department of the city government. For this accomplishment all credit is due the citizens who pioneered in this field, the Playground and Recreation Association of America for the services of L. H. Weir, its director of special studies, and the city administration for passing such an ordinance.

At this same time the Recreation Association consolidated with Houston Community Service, forming the Houston Recreation and Community Service Association, which organization has since steadfastly worked practically as one body with the Recreation Department—Officers: R. W. Wier, President; Mrs. L. A. Freed, Vice-President; Max Bently, Secretary; Miss Florence Sterling, Treasurer.

The City Council gave an appropriation for the first series of municipal concerts following the world war and increased the appropriation for carrying on the department's regular program. The School Board granted an appropriation for carrying on physical education and summer playgrounds in schools, the Park Board furnished facilities and caretakers on park play-

*The work of the Recreation Department has been unusually successful—because it has been made unusually interesting*

grounds and the Association successfully solicited contributions and memberships—many of which came from communities where the work was carried on.

The work was organized under five divisions, each with an active committee of interested citizens—Physical Education and Play, Community Athletics, Community Drama and Pageantry, Community Organization and Community Music.

In 1922 the Houston Amateur Baseball Federation and Junior Public Schools Athletic League were organized.

The following year the activities of the department were augmented by the addition of a director of the joint divisions of Drama and Neighborhood Organization. At this time headquarters were moved to the City Auditorium and the old banquet hall of the auditorium used as a municipal gymnasium. Tennis courts, horseshoe courts and football fields were opened as well as the Miller Outdoor Theatre; the revival of Sunday afternoon municipal concerts; marble tournaments; horseshoe pitching tournament, and many other feature recreational efforts.

During 1924 and 1925 the work of the department continued to expand.

Among the new ventures in 1926 were: a series of eight organ concerts; the Houston Recreational Leaders Institute with 450 students enrolled; a baseball school for boys; organization of a students league, etc.

In the Industrial Athletic Division there were 80 baseball teams, 60 in basket ball, 30 in volley ball, 24 in playground ball and 10 in football. Total participants numbered 103,516.

At the close of 1927 a comparison of the growth of the work of the department over the past four years, showed an increase of 96%, accomplished on a total budget increase of 35%. During this year the Park Department gave to the Recreation Department two fenced playgrounds, two new baseball diamonds, nine tennis courts, several basket ball courts and playground ball diamonds and temporary storerooms.

The year just closed naturally proved the department's greatest year. Total attendance in all department activities was 777,687.

Outstanding gains in the way of facilities for 1928 were: Recreation Club House on Buffalo drive, opposite Sam Houston Park, given by Varner Realty Company and turned over to the Recreation Department by the City Council in August; the Park Place Municipal Swimming Pool, improved by the Park Department and operated by the Recreation Department as the city's first municipal pool; three new baseball diamonds in Hermann Park and two on school properties; lights for basket ball and volley ball courts at Carter Park, the gift of Mr. E. L. Crain, and of Mr. H. O.

*Just a few scenes taken at random from the regular work of the Recreation and Community Service Department*

Clarke, Jr., and Mr. F. Y. Brightman of the Houston Lighting and Power Company.

Facilities operated were:

Twenty-eight summer playgrounds—four of them for negroes.

Ten winter playgrounds—one for negroes.

Six community centers (from two to seven months in operation) one for negroes.

Four gymnasiums (one municipal, three school.)

Park Place Swimming Pool—full time—and a church pool rented on Saturdays for negro playground boys and girls. Public schools gave free swimming periods three times a week in each of their five pools to boys and girls from white playgrounds.

Fourteen baseball diamonds (nine park, two school, three privately owned.)

Twenty-two tennis courts (three on permit system, 19 on playgrounds). Miller Theatre, Hermann Park (permits issued.) Other facilities used for the work were: Council Chamber, City Hall, for Recreation Department Band rehearsals, Christ Church for organ concerts, February and November; auditoriums of three public libraries for children's theatres; Puppet Studio, Museum of Fine Arts.

The schools discontinued practice of paying salaries of summer directors on school playgrounds but furnished, for the first time, indoor facilities in connection with each school playgrounds together with necessary custodian service. Street showers were extended to one additional playground.

Playgrounds:

Attendance on playgrounds and other events promoted by the playground division, 324,139.

More than 600 kites were entered in the 1928 kite tournament, and more than twice as many boats in the model boat tournament than in any previous year.

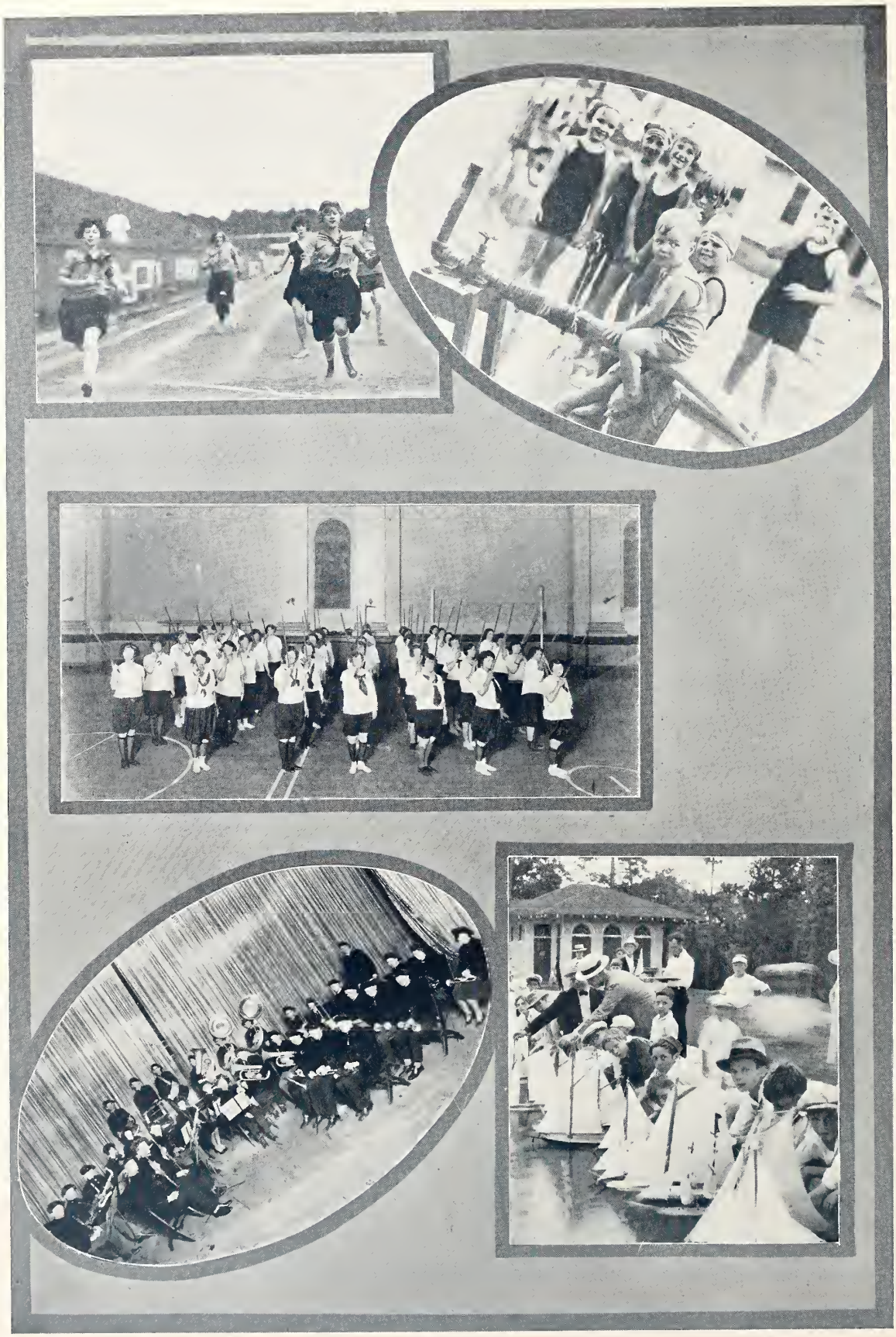
Eight boys' workers on playgrounds, where only three had been employed the previous summer, proved a genuine addition to the staff.

During the Democratic Convention the department operated a playground in the morning hours to care for the children at the Municipal Tourist Camp in Memorial Park.

Three hundred fifty-two volunteers gave service on the playgrounds.

Neighborhood Organization:

Attendance at community centers, social recreation clubs, picnics, parties and social recreation activities in connection with playgrounds (not reported by playgrounds) 23,586.

One hundred eighty-one volunteers gave service.

*Track, music, gymnasium and water sports play an important part in the activities of the Recreational Department*

Supervision of social recreation on summer playgrounds included a daily visit of a social recreation director to each playground.

During its three months of operation the Recreation Club House housed 42 events. This house has been furnished by gifts from friends of the department. A hostess lives on the premises. Maintenance is obtained from rentals of upper floor and of club rooms on occasions.

One of the most outstanding developments of this division is the work of its volunteers and organized adult neighborhood groups. These groups represent all elements of each neighborhood and are keenly interested in and feel the responsibility for creating a wholesome recreational life in their neighborhoods.

October 1 the neighborhood organization director was given the assistance of a full time community center director.

Athletics:

Sixty-eight basket ball, 70 baseball, 5 football and 12 playground ball teams played in Recreation Department leagues this year.

Other athletic events and activities were: Annual Industrial Track Meet—school boys and girls; Annual Senior and Junior Swimming Meets—men and women, boys and girls; Annual Basket Ball Banquet—men and women; Annual Tumbling Tournament—boys and girls; Annual Negro Tumbling Tournament; bi-weekly Women's Gym Class; Tennis permits and operation of Park Place Municipal Pool.

Attendance in Athletic Activities:

| | |
|---|---|
| Participants | 72,008 |
| Spectators | 271,840 |
| Both | 343,848 |

October 1 a full time director of women's athletics was added to the staff of the Athletic Division, and the policy established of using women referees in all women's activities in so far as competent women officials can be found or trained—this in line with the policy adopted by the committee on women's athletics of the National Physical Education Association. The policy of requiring medical examination of all women players was also put into effect. Preliminary plans have been made for the organization in the New Year of bowling, girls' baseball, tennis, volley ball and golf instruction, all activities to be made as nearly self-supporting as possible.

Music:

Total attendance in musical activities, outside community center and playgrounds: Band and Orchestra Contest, Organ Concerts, Music Jamboree and Tree of Light programs; Recreation Department Band, Mexican Glee Club rehearsals; Municipal Orchestra rehearsals; luncheon club, school and convention songs; radio programs, etc., 18,232.

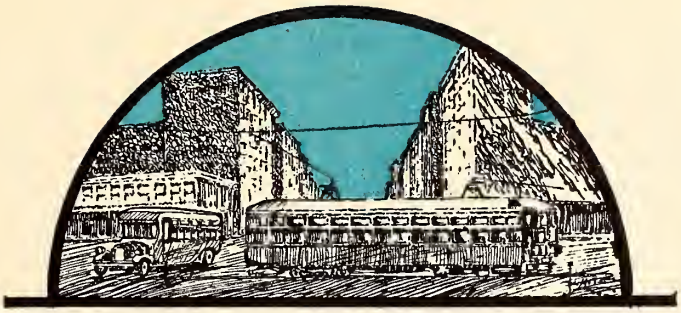
Drama:

Drama activities included: Three Children's Theatres in the libraries; Marionette Classes, Museum of Fine Arts; Adult Dramatic Club; Miscellaneous rehearsals, classes, meetings, conferences; Dramatic Service Bureau; Annual Stunt Tournament; Annual Playground Circus; Annual Negro Playground Circus; story hours, dramatizations, puppet shows, circus acts and stories on playgrounds; and general supervision of Annual Meeting Demonstrations and all tableaux and dramatic effects at Tree of Light programs.

Attendance at dramatic activities (outside playgrounds and community centers), 36,841.

Members of the 1928 Recreation Commission were Frank C. Smith, President; R. W. Wier, President Emeritus; Mrs. F. M. Law, Mrs. P. B. Timpson, Mrs. Ralph Conselyea, Mr. L. J. Tuffly.

*Annual meeting and demonstration, cetebrating 10th anniversary of the Recreation and Community Service Department. (View of entrance to City Auditorium)*



# PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

# *Public Service Department*

By Chas. J. Kirk

CHAS. J. KIRK

THE city has had for many years supervision of public utilities through franchises and under general laws, but until the last six years it had no agency which devoted itself to the task of seeing that these franchises were carried out or that the interest of the public was properly safeguarded.

The present Public Service Commissioner was appointed to his position April 18, 1923. His appointment marked a distinct departure in the policy of the city in its dealings with utilities. By ordinance he has general supervisory authority over all public service corporations operating by municipal authority. It was made his duty to supervise the performance of their duty to the city and public, and he is invested with power over all franchises of every description created by the city. It was recognized that the public was at a tremendous disadvantage so long as there was no one specifically charged with the duty of enforcing contractural rights of the public. This was the paramount reason for the creation of the Public Service Department. Since the creation of this office the public has a place to which they can take their grievances when it believes the public utilities are not giving the proper service, and experience has shown that the public has appreciated this fact.

Complaints of all kinds are handled by the Public Service Department. The department also aids the utilities by helping them to work out standards of service, by making suggestions in remedying defects in the service.

The six main utilities of the city represent a capital investment of some $75,000,000, and the total number of employes of these six utilities are approximately 5,000. The total annual payroll of these utilities is approximately $6,000,000. These utilities pay the city in the form of taxes approximately $1,500,000.

In addition to the six main utilities the Public Service Department has jurisdiction over the Galveston-Houston Electric Co., known as the inter-

urban; the American District Telegraph Co., which is a watch and delivery system; the American Railway Express Co.; the Western Union Telegraph Co.; the Postal Telegraph Co., and all railroads; all electrical inspections; inspection of boilers and elevators; the license and bonding of rent cars, trucks and transfer wagons; issuance of chauffeur licenses; ambulance licenses; airplane licenses; interurban buses and interurban jitneys; and operates a city-owned utility commonly known as the Magnolia Park Gas Company.

As stated before, the present Public Service Department was created on April 18, 1923, and assigned to a space in the City Hall and an appropriation of $10,500 made to defray the expenses for the balance of the year. The personnel consisted of the Public Service Commissioner and a stenographer. In the year 1928 the budget allowance was $129,725.00 and the personnel consisted of 21 employes.

In order that the public may have an idea of the growth of the utilities we are submitting a comparative statement for the past eight years.

## *Houston Lighting and Power Company*

During 1928 there were 389,417,803 K.W.H. sold, or an increase over a period of 10 years of 1082%. And 82,484 meters were in service; by far the largest number of any city in Texas.

The rapid expansion of the business made it necessary to install large turbines at the Deepwater plant. An addition of a new 50,000 K.W. turbine at this plant, to be completed this year, will give this station a total installed capacity of approximately 150,000 K.W., which, combined with the 32,500 K.W. at the Gable Street plant, will make a total of 182,500 K.W. This will be the largest electric generating plant in the Southwest.

The company now serves a great territory adjacent to Houston and its rates compare favorably with any other city of similar size.

## *Houston Gas and Fuel Company*

Natural gas, for both domestic and industrial purposes, came to Houston May 14, 1926, and has played an important part in the continued growth and development of the city.

The Houston Gas and Fuel Company is the oldest artificial gas company in the Southwest, being organized in 1866. In 1900 this company had only 28 miles of mains, while at the close of 1928 it had 608.16 miles of mains, with 48,190 consumers.

The Seagraves Gas Company serves what is known as the Harrisburg district, and is a comparatively new company. At the close of 1928 this company had 36.25 miles of mains and a total of 575 meters.

The Houston Natural Gas Company was granted a franchise to enter the city on July 20, 1927.

The Magnolia Municipal Gas plant is owned and operated by the City of Houston under the Public Service Department. On December 31, 1928, a total of 3,981 meters were served from this plant, through 55.34 miles of mains.

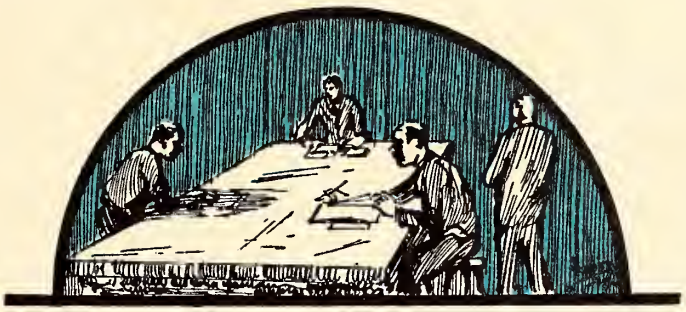
There are approximately 125,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas consumed in Houston daily by industrial and domestic users. This gas is furnished by three pipe lines, known as the Houston Gulf Gas Pipe Line; Houston Pipe Line Company and Dixie Gulf Gas Company.

During the past eight years Houston's telephone system has experienced the most rapid growth in its history.

January 1, 1921, the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company served metropolitan Houston with 29,856 telephone connections. January 1, 1929, showed a total number of connections of 63,057, a gain of more than 110%. To take care of this greatly increased service, four additional central stations have been established. That this company is looking to the future is evidenced by plans now being inaugurated which call for an expenditure of $1,500,000 for additional service and equipment during 1929.

The Houston Electric Company plays an important part in the civic life of Houston. At the close of 1928 its total mileage of track and bus route was 187.36, as compared to 81.37 miles in 1921. The total miles covered by cars and busses in 1928 was 9,552,997. Approximately 56,000,000 passengers were hauled.

An average number of 1200 people are employed by the company, with an annual payroll approximating $1,400,000.



# CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

# *Civil Service Department*

NORMAN H. BEARD

CIVIL SERVICE was adopted by a vote of the people of Houston at an election held in 1913 and today the employees of practically all of the departments of the city government are working under this system.

NORMAN H. BEARD

A charter amendment creates a Civil Service Commission, outlines the duties of that body and prescribes the fundamental activities of the system.

Since its inauguration civil service has proven entirely satisfactory and has resulted in a higher and better type of employee for the city. This result is due, first to the rigid entrance requirements and, second, to the practical certainty that ability and faithful performance of duties will guarantee continued employment and eventually promotion.

At the close of 1928 the records of the commission showed a total of 2217 employees in the city's service of which 1583 were under Civil Service regulations; all employees being subject to Civil Service rules with the exception of the department heads, their chief clerks, and employees in the day labor service—these being exempted by provisions of the City Charter.

In the published report of the Commission in 1921, is found the following figures which clearly show the departmental growth when compared with the present figures:

"Out of 1358 employees, exclusive of more than 1000 connected with the school system, on the city's payroll at the close of 1921, there were 608 under the Civil Service."

A comparison with the figures at the close of 1928 show a considerable difference. These figures do not include the school system or the Navigation Commission, formerly the Harbor Department, as both of these municipal agencies have been separated from the city government and now function as independent bodies.

At the close of 1928 out of 2217 city employees there were 1583 under the Civil Service.

In the year 1928 more than four thousand applications for various branches of the service were filed with the Commission, from which 1000 applicants were put through examinations and 311 placed on the payrolls as probationary employees.

One of the most important duties of the Commission is the holding of the competitive entrance examinations from time to time for the purpose of selecting from applicants those best equipped to perform, in an efficient manner, the work in various departments of the city government. These examinations include physical and educational tests and investigations as to moral character and previous experience.

Examinations for promotions are likewise held. In examinations of a technical nature the department head making requisition for the employee assists in preparing the questions and grading the papers. All examinations are conducted by the director of the Commission, except physical examinations, these being conducted by the City Health Officer. More than 100 Civil Service examinations were held during the year 1928.

A very important function of the Civil Service is the hearing of appeals of employees recommended for discharge by the heads of departments. This is a very advantageous feature, not alone for the employee but for the service as well. The decision of the Commission is final, and this feature assures a fair and impartial trial for the employee.

Another very important work of the commission is the checking of all weekly and semi-monthly payrolls of the city before they go to the Controller for payment. A particular safeguard in this feature is that only the correct rate of salary established by the City Council is approved; and also determination if the proper authority has been obtained for the placement of new employees.

For both the Police and Fire Departments a merit and demerit system is in effect, and this plan has tended to materially increase the efficiency of the employees in both departments.

The handling of the group insurance covering all city employees, whether under Civil Service or not, is another duty which devolves upon the Civil Service Commission.

During the year 1928 there were 20 deaths and one total disability in the service resulting in the payment of $19,250.00 in insurance benefits under the group insurance contract between the insurance company and the city.

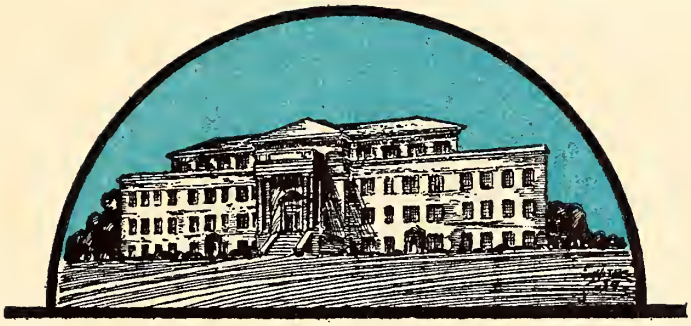
During the year the Commission, with the approval of the City Council, created a number of new positions in the classified service. These positions

covered placements in practically all city departments and were necessary on account of the growth of the various branches of the service.

The Commission carefully handles all special police commissions and arranges all details in connection thereof. A complete record of each commission issued is maintained in the Commission's office.

Due to the large growth of the municipal service the general office activities of the Commission have become more and more extensive, the year 1928 being noted as the most active annual period in the history of the Commission. City Council matters, deparmental transfers, investigations, settlement of employees' death claims, municipal information, office correspondence, office records, conferences, adjustment of employees' debts; requests for general information concerning employees; various complaints, the furnishing of relief special employees account sickness or leave of absence, the enforcement of the rules and regulations, medical records and observation of sick employees and service letters are all a part of the continuous routine work of the Civil Service Commission.

Aside from his Civil Service duties the Commission's Director serves as editor of the City of Houston publications, of which the municipal Quarterly Review is the official organ of the city government.



HOUSTON
FOUNDATION

# *Houston Foundation*

By Dr. J. W. Slaughter

SEVERAL years ago the Houston Foundation was created in Houston, with a view at that time of creating a body to which persons who wanted to make charitable bequests of estates, might make them with assurance there would be a body of continuous perpetuity to administer them.

DR. J. W. SLAUGHTER

In addition, the Houston Foundation has general supervisory control over agencies to which the city grants a subsidy. It co-ordinates their work and maintains a close relationship with the Houston Community Chest.

The legal aid bureau was created in 1925, under direction of the Houston Foundation and it has wide supervisory control over hospital work of the city. Another work that has made vast progress during the last eight years is the City Free Employment Bureau. This bureau places thousands of persons annually.

In 1921 it had placed in positions 12,873 persons, while in 1927 it placed 26,929 persons in jobs.

The Free Legal Aid Bureau is to serve those who have small claims to adjust, where the amounts are so small they would not justify employment of an attorney, but in which an adjustment is of great importance. In 1928 it handled 786 of these claims. This department has lately been merged with the City Legal Department.

Appropriations to the Houston Foundation have been as follows:

| Year | |
|---|---|
| 1921 | $63,260.77 |
| 1922 | 45,962.83 |
| 1923 | 61,626.00 |
| 1924 | 46,444.67 |
| 1925 | 48,995.00 |
| 1926 | 45,950.00 |
| 1927 | 46,805.00 |
| 1928 | 50,170.00 |

*No city is complete without facilities to properly take care of the sick. Here are some of Houston's Hospitals dedicated to the unselfish service of the people*

The Houston Tuberculosis Hospital for the care of patients with tuberculosis is located on a block of about 20 acres at the corner of Shepherd's Dam drive and West Dallas avenue. It is operated by the City of Houston with the help of an annual contribution by the Commissioner's Court of Harris County. It is open to tubercular patients in Houston and Harris County, and for all stages of the disease. It has grown rapidly.

On December 8, 1925, there was opened a new fireproof building, the gift of Mrs. J. L. Autry, for the care of tubercular children. This building provides hospital care, and at the same time maintains an ungraded school, so that the children on leaving are able to resume their places in the school system. The capacity of this building was 30 beds, now increased to 50.

From the opening of the hospital in May, 1918, to the beginning of the present administration in 1921, there had been admitted to the hospital a total of 185 patients. Since that time the number of patients admitted has been as follows:

| Year | |
|---|---|
| 1922 | 157 |
| 1923 | 192 |
| 1924 | 216 |
| 1925 | 213 |
| 1926 | 197 |
| 1927 | 190 |
| 1928 | 194 |

Since its opening, the Autry School has been continuously filled to its capacity of 30 children. From December 8, 1925, through the year 1926, there were 90 children admitted; in 1927, there were 63, and in 1928, 62.

The hospital is connected with the nursing service of the Anti-Tuberculosis League, which maintains a clinic as a diagnostic and admitting center. These nurses also carry on the follow-up work with patients discharged from the hospital.

# SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

# *Social Service Bureau*

*By* WALTER W. WHITSON, *Supt.*

WALTER W. WHITSON

AS THE result of important surveys sponsored by the Community Chest, there have been certain re-divisions of the field of social work. The Social Service Bureau which once had eight branches of work, now is composed of three functional departments. These departments represent activities which in most cities are sponsored by separate agencies or societies. These departments are Family Work, including Relief; Public Health Nursing; and Social Settlements. Each department has a committee responsible for the development of that department.

The Family Work Department cares for needy families. In our modern, highly organized social life there are many families who fail to make adequate or satisfactory adjustment. Various factors contribute to these maladjustments; lack of regular employment; friction between the home and school; tendency of the family to isolate itself from friends or church; ignorance as to where to secure medical service; or the deeper more serious disorganization within the family itself, leading to desertion, uncontrolled children, and perhaps mental, or moral breakdown. To help solve these maladjustments relating to family life is the work of our family visitors, or social case workers. The personnel of this department consists, according to our 1929 plans, of a Case Supervisor and eight case workers, six of whom will be responsible each for a particular district. The seventh deals with transient families and men and other special cases; the eighth is a colored worker. During 1928, our Family Work Department served 2,382 families, in which 7,478 individuals were represented. From the funds of the Social Service Bureau $11,244.00 was spent in material relief to these families. In addition to these funds, the workers secured from relatives, friends and other natural sources, about $2,000.00, which was used for the particular families for which it was secured. This money was made available by the services of the case workers. They seek to cultivate

*Scenes showing the work of the various departments of the Social Service Bureau: Day Nurseries, Classes in English, Public Health Nursing, Playground Activities, and Home Charity are some of the many services rendered*

natural responsibilities. A Community Chest gift does not relieve one of the duty of helping relatives, old employes or a faithful fellow church member.

More important than the gifts of money is the service of these case workers. Services which, instead of helping people *in* their troubles, *lift them out of those troubles;* arouses ambitions; relieves inhibitions and releases energy; creates new opportunities; converts dependent attitudes into independence; makes available the resources of clinic, club, legal aid bureau, school, library and church; and perhaps greatest of all, interprets folks to themselves and their families, so that they can make satisfactory adjustments and achieve happiness. Such service, based on carefully secured and analyzed information and knowledge, is what we mean by social case work. The number of applications coming to our Family Department are increasing rapidly. There is not only the increase due to the growth of the city but the increase caused by an appreciation of the value and importance of such service. In December, 1927, 473 families were looking to the Social Service Bureau for aid and service, whereas in December, 1928, the number was 542, or an increase of 15%.

The Public Health Nursing Department has for years been a strong and important department of the Bureau. Beginning with bedside care of the sick in their own homes, this service has developed along the lines of preventive Public Health Nursing. Not only care of the sick, but health education to expectant mothers; instruction in keeping children well; assistance to the City Health Department in its campaigns against contagious disease and epidemic; follow up service for the various clinics of the city, making sure that the patients understand the physician's instructions and are able to carry them out—these have all become important parts of our Public Health Nursing Department. Last year this department cared for 4,604 patients; the nurses made 21,258 visits. Of these visits, 9,253 were in connection with child welfare. Plans have been developed for the establishment shortly of a child health educational center in co-operation with the Houston Negro Hospital. Last August the field covered by the Nursing Department was extended to include the new additions to the city, territory previously served by the Harris County Chapter of the American Red Cross. The staff of the Public Health Nursing Department now consists of the supervisor and nine staff members; three of whom are Negroes. Although there were recent additions to the staff, the increased territory has brought an even larger increase in the amount of work. This department is looking forward to the time when funds will be available which will make possible the addition of an assistant superintendent who can give special attention to the increasing child welfare work and health education and another field nurse. The staff nurses are finding a very special field of usefulness in relation to our growing Mexican population.

The Social Settlements represent the third functional department of the Social Service Bureau. There are two settlement centers; Bethlehem for the colored work, and Rusk Settlement at Gable street which has now become a Mexican neighborhood. The most important activity which has been conducted at these centers has been the day nursery work. At the day nurseries working mothers leave their small children in the knowledge that their little ones will be safe. These children are not only given shelter and supervision but wholesome lunches. Those of school age are made ready and sent to school. Owing to the difficulties in bringing the very small children to the Rusk Nursery after the new freight house and tracks had been put in across from the settlement, a branch of Rusk Nursery was opened on Saltus street, a little more than a year ago. During 1928, 203 different children were cared for; 25,685 meals were served at the nurseries. One of the recently formed settlement clubs is a Nursery Parents Club. Once a month the parents of the Saltus Street and Rusk Nurseries are invited to stay for a simple supper and are led in a discussion of child care. During 1928, 477 clubs and class meetings were held at the settlements. We anticipate a much larger number in 1929. A new head-resident for Bethlehem Settlement has been engaged, who has had much experience in group organization work and home economics training, and we look forward to Mothers Clubs, Thrift Clubs, Sewing Classes, etc., as part of Bethlehem Settlement.

My vision for these two centers is that they shall be a point of contact where the best that Houston has to offer in good will, culture, opportunity, may be made available to the Negroes and Mexicans in our city; that club leaders, librarians, spiritual minded citizens may counteract the contacts with loan sharks, unscrupulous politicians, and the exploiters of gambling and vice; that there may be an opportunity for self-expression in music, in art, in group life; that American ideals may become a reality instead of a theory or a hope.

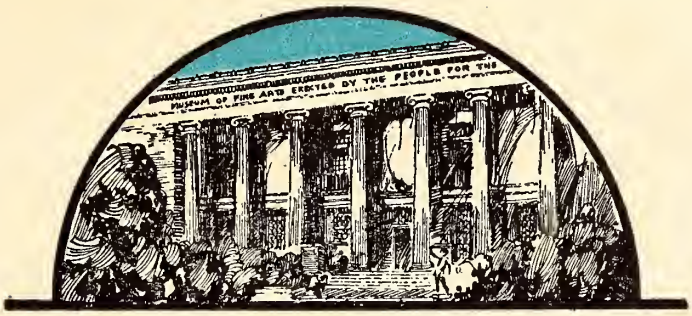
There is one element which these three departments, Family Work, Public Health Nursing, Social Settlements, have in common. An element common to nearly all forms of social work. The value and quality of results depend more than anything else upon the workers themselves; their training and personal equipment. The Public Health Nurse should be skilled both in her nursing technique and in her ability to secure a right response for her patient; the settlement worker needs to understand how to reach, hold, and lead her neighborhood groups; and the family case worker is of value not because of relief which she may distribute, but because of her skill in understanding and her help in solving the problems of needy families. This means that special training must be added to personality and desire to help others.

The Social Service Bureau relieves poverty—economic poverty; poverty

of health, and poverty of spirit. When the relief of poverty is undertaken by the trained social workers, it is also preventive. I have referred to the fact that much of the time of our Public Health nurses is spent in keeping people well, particularly mothers and children. The activities of our two settlements keep boys and girls from becoming wards of the Juvenile Court. I know of no finer prevention than that of changing a person from a dependent to one desirous and able to be self-maintaining. While this is accomplished family by family it is just as truly prevention as is legislative action which says no child under 14 shall work in a factory and mill. The Social Service Bureau recognizes, however, that there are factors handicapping the individual which the individual can not overcome. These must be dealt with by community education and legislation. As these conditions are revealed in the daily contacts that we have with those who need our help, we shall endeavor to interpret them to those whose assistance we shall seek in modifying these destructive conditions. Social work through such agencies as the Social Service Bureau is reducing the extent and degradation of poverty and misery. However, the preventive character of social work is not reducing the need of social service, for there will always be those who fall behind in life's struggle. Although we may always have the poor with us, it is a less crushing form of poverty. Society is constantly raising the standard which we demand for all. Those who fail to reach that standard are those whom social work serves.

Those industries which fail to pay a living wage, or which provide only seasonal occupation become a liability and not an asset to our city.

The Social Service Bureau is *your* agent. It is your agent in modifying with all the knowledge available, human lives and society in the interest of both. It makes Houston a better place in which to work and live because those who are the misfits and unfortunate are properly cared for. The Social Service Bureau represents your expression of social justice and finally the Social Service Bureau is your expression of kindness, brotherhood and love to the weak and unfortunate.



# CITY ARCHITECT DEPARTMENT

# City Architect Department

By W. A. Dowdy

W. A. DOWDY

THE Department of Architecture was created by the City Council in 1912, and while it is small, it is a department of importance and renders a valuable service to the taxpayers of Houston.

The activities of this department consist of the preparation of plans and specifications and supervision of construction of buildings erected by the city. In some special cases, however, the City Council deems it advisable to procure the services of architects in private practice, as consulting or associate architects, and supervision of work only is performed, the outside architects preparing the plans and specifications.

This department is under the direction of the Mayor and City Commissioners. The work handled costs the city 2½% of the cost of the building, representing a saving of 2½% over the usual cost should the work be done by outside architects.

In addition to erection of new buildings, service is rendered all departments in the way of handling repairs and renewal of existing buildings. In the pursuance of these duties, the city architect has served practically every municipal board in the city.

Some idea of the wide range of work handled by this department may be obtained from the following list of buildings planned and supervised during the period from 1921 to 1928.

| Year Erected | Description of Buildings | Cost |
|---|---|---|
| 1921 | Negro Unit at T. B. Hospital | $ 8,654.00 |
| 1922 | 26 Frame Buildings for the School Board | 32,000.00 |
| 1922 | Bowie School | 42,000.00 |
| 1923 | Advanced Case Unit at T. B. Hospital | 9,900.00 |
| 1923 | Primates Building at the City Zoo | 11,755.00 |
| 1923 | Central Fire & Police Station Building | 325,189.94 |

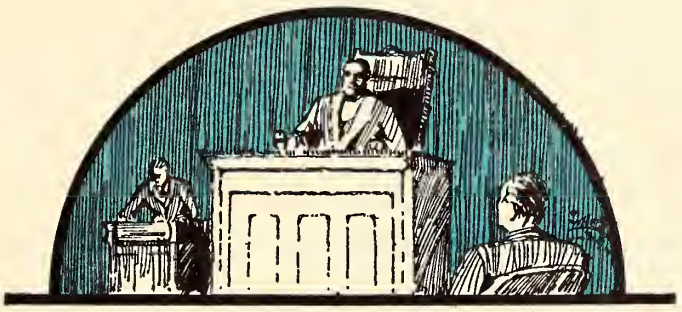
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1924 | Shelter House at Root Square | 24,648.00 |
| 1924 | Jefferson Davis Hospital—Main Building | 287,636.07 |
| 1924 | Fire Station Number 15 | 8,000.00 |
| 1924 | Fire Station Number 16 | 10,220.76 |
| 1925 | Jefferson Davis Hospital—Garage | 7,680.00 |
| 1925 | Jefferson Davis Hospital—Nurses' Home | 50,610.60 |
| 1925 | Fire Station Number 17 | 10,732.00 |
| 1925 | North Side Library | 49,760.00 |
| 1926 | Comfort Station in Hermann Park | 6,631.00 |
| 1926 | Central Plant Water Works Building | 119,498.64 |
| 1927 | Central Plant Water Works Garage | 27,391.00 |
| 1927 | Stables for the Police Department | 1,791.00 |
| 1928 | Nurses' Home at the T. B. Hospital | 53,391.82 |
| 1928 | T. B. Clinic Buildings | 3,756.98 |
| 1928 | Fire Station Number 19 | 19,298.34 |
| 1928 | Fire Station Number 25 | 12,510.60 |
| 1928 | Cottage at 69th Street Bridge | 3,536.00 |
| 1928 | Garage for the Street & Bridge Dept. | 11,300.00 |
| 1928 | Stables for the Street & Bridge Dept. | 3,000.00 |
| 1928 | Laundry Building at T. B. Hospital | 7,105.00 |
| 1929 | Jefferson Davis Hospital—Power House | 32,334.00 |
| 1929 | West End Sub-Police Station Building | 19,577.22 |
| 1929 | Remodelling Basement of Jefferson Davis Hospital | 5,065.00 |
| | TOTAL | $1,204,972.97 |

## PLANS PREPARED BY OTHER ARCHITECTS AND WORK SUPERVISED BY THE CITY ARCHITECT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1921 | Southmore School | $ 72,000.00 |
| 1922 | Miller Theatre, (Gift of Mr. Austin Miller.) | 46,271.00 |
| 1928 | Sam Houston Hall | 166,083.79 |
| | TOTAL | $ 184,354.79 |

## PLANS PREPARED AND WORK SUPERVISED BY OTHER ARCHITECTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1926 | Remodelling of City Auditorium | $ 668,405.27 |
| 1926 | Heights Branch Library Building | 47,336.72 |
| 1927 | Fire Station Number 2 | 83,614.00 |
| 1926 | Central Library Building | 379,811.64 |
| 1928 | Fireman's Training Tower | 22,172,00 |
| 1927 | Negro Hospital (Gift of J. S. Cullinan) | 75,000.00 |
| 1926 | Autrey Hospital (Gift of A. K. Autrey) | 60,000.00 |
| | TOTAL | $1,336,339.63 |
| | GRAND TOTAL | $2,725,667.39 |



# CORPORATION COURT

# Corporation Court

By Judge Lucien M. Andler

THE Corporation Court holds no terms but is at all times open for transaction of business in its rooms on the fourth floor of the Fire-Police Station.

The Judge of Corporation Court is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The court has jurisdiction within the limits of the City of Houston, with power to hear and determine all cases of violation of ordinances of the city. All cases are tried in open court and no pleas of guilty are accepted except by the Judge—and all pleas must be made by offenders or their legal representatives.

JUDGE LUCIEN M. ANDLER

The Judge keeps a docket which is known as the "Minutes of the Corporation Court," in which is noted all continuances, trials, judgments, new trials, notices of appeals, dismissals and fines.

The growth and development of Houston has naturally increased the work of this court.

During 1928 a total of $165,639.00 in fines was assessed, which showed an increase of approximately 100% over the amount assessed during 1924.

The following statements covering the period of 1928 shows the large amount of business handled during the past year:

CASES FILED IN CORPORATION COURT AND HOW DISPOSED OF FROM JANUARY 1st, 1928, TO DECEMBER 31st, 1928

| Month— | Cases Docketed | Convictions | Dismissed | Pending |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 1,963 | 1,309 | 567 | 87 |
| February | 2,114 | 1,367 | 653 | 94 |
| March | 2,227 | 1,363 | 781 | 83 |
| April | 1,883 | 1,209 | 582 | 92 |
| May | 2,161 | 1,334 | 721 | 106 |
| June | 1,700 | 1,073 | 558 | 69 |
| July | 1,496 | 928 | 461 | 107 |
| August | 2,253 | 1,312 | 482 | 99 |
| September | 1,886 | 1,095 | 687 | 104 |
| October | 1,886 | 994 | 763 | 129 |
| November | 1,424 | 668 | 657 | 99 |
| December | 1,588 | 666 | 597 | 325 |
| Total | 22,581 | 13,318 | 7,869 | 1,394 |

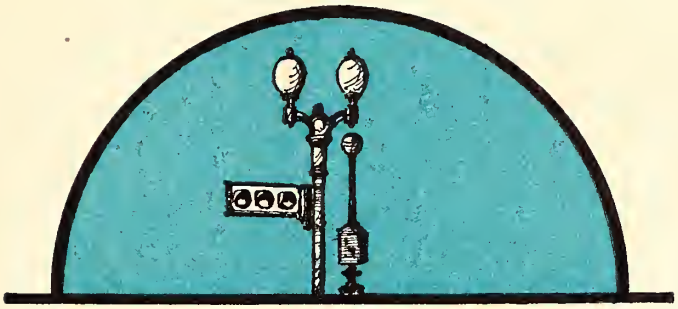
## FINES AND COSTS ASSESSED IN CORPORATION COURT AND HOW LIQUIDATED

### DURING THE YEAR 1928

| Month— | Fines Assessed | Fines Paid | Time Served | Appealed | Escaped |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. . . . . | $14,811.00 | $ 9,953.00 | $ 4,573.00 | $ 245.00 | 10.00 |
| Feb. . . . . | 16,548.00 | 9,095.00 | 6,228.00 | 935.00 | 200.00 |
| March . . . | 18,453.00 | 10,310.00 | 6,220.00 | 793.00 | 468.00 |
| April . . . . | 16,039.00 | 10,128.00 | 5,333.00 | 200.00 | 35.00 |
| May . . . . | 16,265.00 | 10,495.00 | 5,238.00 | 295.00 | 197.00 |
| June . . . . . | 14,986.00 | 8,835.00 | 4,861.00 | 615.00 | 490.00 |
| July . . . . | 12,321.00 | 8,239.00 | 3,425.00 | 460.00 | 15.00 |
| August . | 14,477.00 | 9,129.00 | 4,493.00 | 375.00 | 15.00 |
| Sept. . . . . | 11,073.00 | 7,274.00 | 3,114.00 | 370.00 | 250.00 |
| Oct. . . . . | 12,512.00 | 7,255.00 | 4,217.00 | 521.00 | 330.00 |
| Nov. . . . . | 8,954.00 | 4,131.00 | 4,058.00 | 125.00 | .... |
| Dec. . . . . | 9,200.00 | 4,666.00 | 2,724.00 | 190.00 | 175.00 |
| | $165,639.00 | $99,510.00 | $54,484.00 | $ 5,124.00 | 2,185.00 |

| Month— | New Trial | Released by City Phy. | Released by Juv. Ct. | Released by City Council | On Hand |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. . . . . | $ 30.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Feb. . . . . | 90.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| March . . . | 412.00 | 250.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| April . . . . | 343.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| May . . . . | 40.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| June . . . . | 170.00 | ..... | 15.00 | ..... | ..... |
| July . . . . . | 182.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| August . . . | 465.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Sept. . . . . | 60.00 | ..... | 5.00 | ..... | ..... |
| Oct. . . . . | 174.00 | ..... | ..... | 15.00 | ..... |
| Nov.. . . . . | 30.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 610.00 |
| Dec. . . . . | 130.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,315.00 |
| | $2,126.00 | $250.00 | $20.00 | $15.00 | $1,925.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Fines and Costs Paid . . . . . | $99,510.00 |
| Fines and Costs collected which were reported not liquidated in 1927, liquidated in 1928 . . . . . | 86.00 |
| Total . . . . . | $99,596.00 |



# ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

# *Electrical Department*

*By* J. S. LUCKIE

THE past eight years have been eventful ones in the growth of the City's Electrical Department. It has had to keep pace with a double development.

First, the remarkable development that has gone on in the multiplication of the uses of electrical devices, and

Secondly, the tremendous growth of the city.

J. S. LUCKIE

The great development that has occurred in that department has been in the application to the regulation of traffic. In that respect the department has stood out in the front ranks of cities of the country.

Eight years ago Houston had not a single electrical signal. But shortly afterwards it began experiments in the regulation of traffic by use of signals. It found them entirely successful, and quickly adopted the system, which has now grown to such large proportions.

The system had been in vogue on a minor scale in several other cities prior to that time, but Houston, under Mayor Holcombe and City Electrician Clarence George, added many new features and made the service more convenient and practical.

At first a signal tower was erected at Main and Capitol, from which a policeman operated the system. But that has been done away with and the system is now automatically operated throughout the entire downtown section from the offices of the City Electrical Department in the Central Fire and Police Station. A machine is set there to turn on and off the stop and go signals with any frequency desired. There are hundreds of these signal lights in the downtown section, and in addition many at dangerous crossings in outlying sections, which are operated automatically, and separate from the remainder of the system.

During the last eight years the entire fire alarm system in the downtown section has been placed underground, and now consists of 25 miles of cables. During the same time its miles of open lines have grown from less than 100

miles to more than 400 miles. A large part of these extensions has been made during the last two or three years.

Houston now has a total of 324 fire alarm boxes scattered throughout the city, and 50 police call boxes, while many police electric signals cover the heavily policed downtown section of the city.

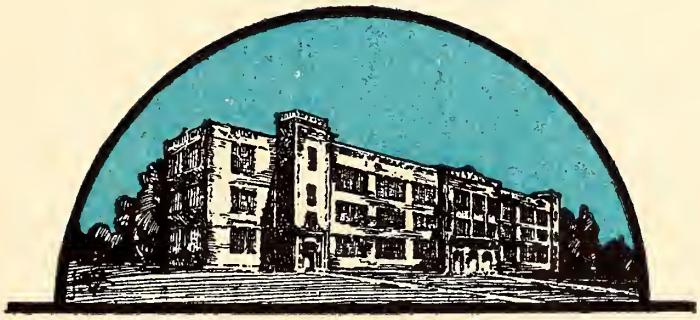
While eight years ago the Department operated 12 box circuits and repeating instruments for flashing information to outlying fire stations it has increased this number to 36.

The police patrol service is one of the interesting features of the Department. With its 60 flashlights in the police districts, police headquarters may, within a few minutes, summons every police officer in the city, except those in outlying districts.

Besides these major activities of the Electrical Department, it does a world of miscellaneous work, such as installing electrical equipment in the parks, maintaining the lighting systems in the City Hall and helping in the designing of ornamental lighting systems for boulevards and streets, and bridges and tunnels.

In fact within the last few years this department has jumped from one of comparative unimportance to a very vital one in the activities of the municipal government.

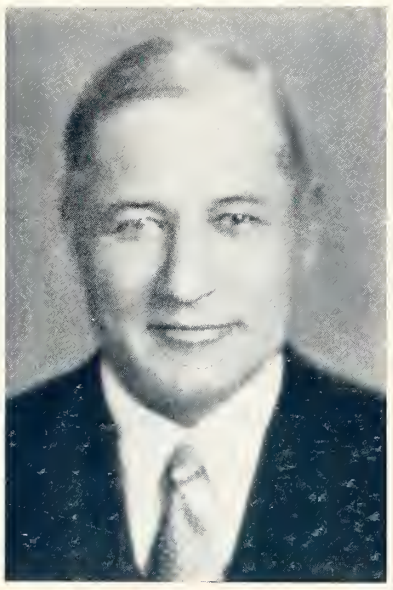
The people sometime ago voted a bond issue for extension of the fire alarm system, and there is still remaining in that bond fund $45,000.



# HOUSTON SCHOOLS

# *Houston Schools*

*By* H. L. Mills, *Business Manager*



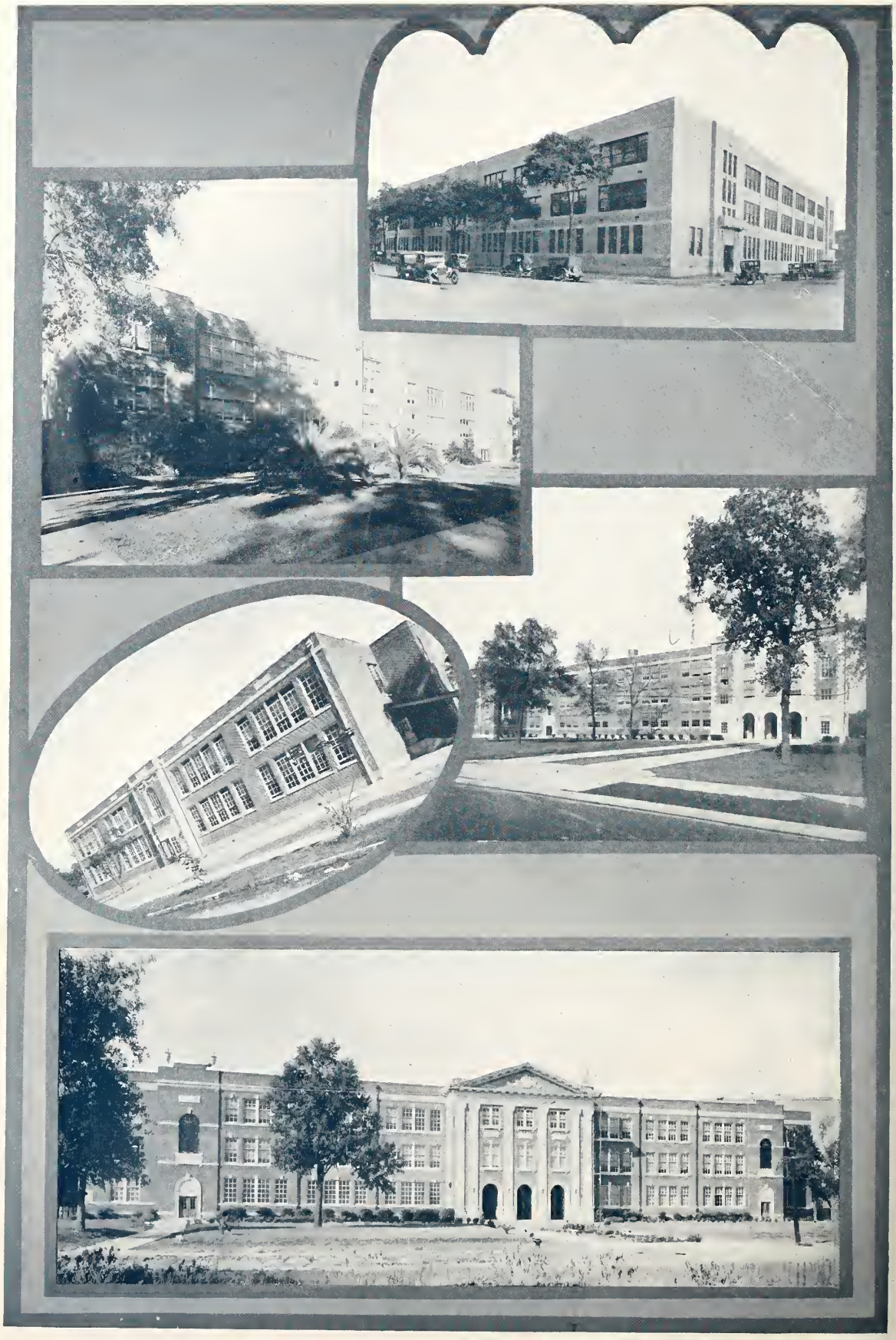
E. E. OBERHOLTZER

WHILE prior to 1923, the Houston schools were conducted as a department of the Municipal Government, the city now has no official connection with the schools other than to collect the school taxes.

The Houston Independent School District was created by a special act of the State Legislature and approved by the Governor of Texas on March 20th, 1923, and as the wording of the Legislature implies, the school district is absolutely independent. Its government and management is left entirely with the seven members of the Board of Education, who are elected by a vote of the people every two years, the elections being for four members one year and for three members the following year.

Immediately after the Houston Independent School District was created and the Board of Education organized, a complete inventory of conditions was made by the Board of Education to determine the needs of the entire system. These needs were viewed from every angle. The types of school organizations the country over were studied extensively. The survey showed beyond a doubt that the educational facilities were not adequate and that a building program would have to be launched if the children of the district were properly cared for. At the time this survey was made it was found that seven thousand pupils were without desks, which of course meant that fourteen thousand were attending school on half day sessions.

Therefore, the Board of Education submitted to the qualified voters a bond issue of three million dollars for the purpose of buying grounds, building new buildings and providing additional equipment. This issue was approved by a large majority, and out of the funds thus provided came eight new high schools, six of them junior high schools and two of them senior high schools. These buildings provided a total additional capacity for seventy-two hundred pupils.



*During the past few years many fine Public Schools have been built in Houston to properly take care of a fast increasing population*

However, when this program was finished it was found that relief had been given only for the high schools and that crowded conditions still prevailed in a number of the elementary schools. Therefore, as a second part of the building program, the Board of Education again submitted to the voters of the district a bond issue in the amount of four million dollars. This was approved by the voters by a large majority in November, 1925, and from this bond issue additions were made to high school buildings, which had again become overcrowded, practically all of the old elementary school buildings were rehabilitated and brought up to standard, and in addition thereto there were eight new elementary school buildings built.

In other words, out of the seven million dollars as above provided for there were provided two hundred and fifty classrooms, four auditoriums, eight cafeterias, thirty combination lunch-auditorium-play rooms, nine gymnasiums and six swimming pools. Such a building program was at the time without a precedent in the entire South. The magnitude of the program was noteworthy and the value received for the money spent was especially great for the type of constructions secured. The new buildings are all fireproof and the old buildings were completely worked over to make them as near fireproof as possible, and in fact all of the new constructions are in every respect splendid examples of the most modern type of school buildings, both in appearance and in adaptability to school purposes.

But the story of the phenomenal growth of the Houston School District does not stop with the above facts, for in the spring of 1928 the Board of Education again realized that there were a number of children on half day sessions. The Board found that numerous of its new buildings were greatly overcrowded. There were junior high schools which had been built to accommodate one thousand children and an actual count showed an attendance of fourteen hundred. There were certain sections of the city where new additions had developed almost over night, and where there were three or four hundred children without school facilities in their community. Therefore, the Board of Education again submitted to the voters of the district an additional four million dollar bond issue for the purpose of building additions to numerous new schools, as well as for the purpose of providing ten additional new buildings, and this bond issue was approved by a large majority of the voters in May, 1928.

It is remarkable to note that within eight months after the above bond issue was approved by the voters that approximately two million dollars worth of new construction has been actually finished, accepted by the Board of Education and put into use, thereby offering accommodations for some five thousand pupils who otherwise would have been on half day sessions. In fact this last four million dollar bond issue provides for a program which will be complete in every sense of the word before the end of 1929.

*Another group of Houston Schools, whose pleasing architecture adds much to community development*

It is doubtful if such a program has ever been completed in such a short time.

One of the most notable features of the building programs that have been carried on by the Board of Education is the provision of providing large grounds for the new buildings. In fact these sites range from six to twelve acres and were selected after intensive study of the present and probable future needs of various sections of the city. In other words, locations of new schools were made from a scientific standpoint and not made simply because some real estate firm or some special group of citizens desired a school located at some particular point. As a result Houston today has one of the best school plants in the entire country, each building of which is located to serve best its section of the city.

The value of school property in the Houston Independent School District is in excess of twenty million dollars. There are forty-five thousand children enrolled in the Houston public schools, thirteen thousand of these being in the high schools, and the last scholastic census which was taken shows Houston to have approximately fifty-four thousand children of scholastic age. This is approximately two thousand more than in any other city in Texas. There are 98 school buildings. The Board of Education has also provided a Junior College for white students. The College is self-sustaining and has an enrollment of more than five hundred students. And in addition to this the Board of Education has recently established a Junior College for Negroes, this being the only municipal Junior College so far established in Texas for Negroes. But the Board of Education, in all of its programs, has undertaken to provide complete facilities for all people, regardless of age or color.

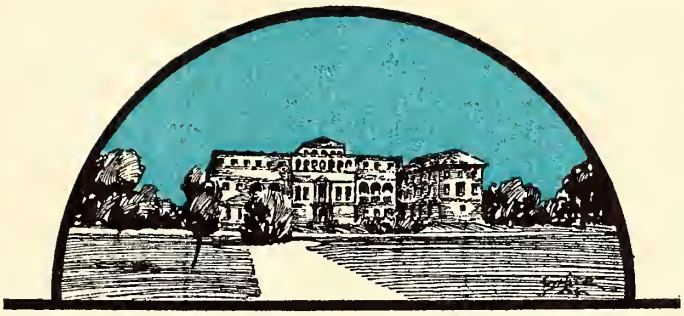
The Board of Education has not omitted bringing its curriculum up to standard. Experts have been employed, and as a result the course of study is one of the most up to date to be found anywhere in the country. Provision is made not only for the education of the children, but their health and physical development is also taken into consideration. There are sixty-five lunch rooms in operation in the various schools, being directed by the Board of Education for the sole purpose of providing the best possible food at the least expense. There are corps of nurses and doctors who devote their time to the health of the children, and in fact it is now known that from a standpoint of health it is better for Houston children to be in school than out.

When it is understood that Houston has climbed from third place in population to first place of all the cities in Texas, and when it is realized that there are only two other cities in the United States that have grown so rapidly that the United States Census Bureau refuses to estimate the population, and when a careful study is made of the modern up to date

*Rice Institute ranks with the finest colleges and universities in the United States. Young men and young women throughout the country come to Houston because of this great school*

school system of the City of Houston, the efforts of the Board of Education in the last five years become nothing less than marvelous. Of course, all of this expansion has been made possible through the generosity of the voters of the district. The people have recognized and proclaimed their belief in the schools, and the Board of Education has every assurance that the people will continue to provide the funds, increasing though they may be, for the support and maintenance of the schools.

The present Board of Education is composed of the following: R. H. Fonville, President; W. B. Bates, Secretary; K. C. Barkley, Vice President; Mrs. B. F. Coop, Ass't Secretary; W. A. Kirkland; E. D. Shepherd; Dr. Ray K. Daily. E. E. Oberholtzer, Superintendent. H. L. Mills, Business Manager.



HOUSTON LIBRARIES

# *Houston Libraries*

By Julia Ideson

HOUSTON is naturally proud of its library facilities, and the splendid progress we have made along that line within the last few years. Outstanding, of course, is the erection of the new library, which, with branches, represents an investment of $800,000. The site comprising the whole block bounded by McKinney and Lamar avenues and Smith and Bagby streets, places it in a location where it becomes a part of Houston's new civic center.

JULIA IDESON

Eight years ago the library was located in wholly inadequate quarters at McKinney avenue and Travis street. This property was sold for $100,000, and the people voted bonds for a new site and one of the handsomest library buildings in the South.

During the same period the library began the establishment of branches. The $100,000 received for the old site was used for the construction of two beautiful branch libraries, one on the North Side and the other in Houston Heights.

Formerly the library had always been dependent on the whims of city councils for support, not knowing from year to year just how much it was to receive for any one year, and consequently unable to make plans far ahead. But the council submitted to the voters a proposal to set aside 2½ cents on the $100 of assessed city values which should go to library purposes. With this assurance of a fixed, and calculable income, the library has been enabled to make continuous and substantial progress.

The library board is now asking that the tax levy be raised to five cents on the $100. Their request has met with no opposition, but has been deferred until the new administration takes charge when the matter will likely be taken up.

In ministering to book needs the Library performs many and varied services, but perhaps the most obvious measure of its use is in the number of books loaned for home reading. The book circulation this year from the

HOUSTON'S LIBRARIES

*Top—Heights Branch  Center—Central Library Building.  Bottom—North Side Branch*

main library, branches and stations was 586,965 volumes, an increase over last year of 77,299. Out of that total 305,945 books were loaned from the main library and 281,020 from branches and stations. The increase in volumes loaned from the main library was 36,371, which shows that the increased facilities have more than offset the removal of the building three blocks from the former more central location.

The Library has been indefatigably occupied with its great function of supplying information. Every community should make it possible for its citizens to secure not only the world's works of imagination but also the world's truths.

President Calvin Coolidge said in a recent address on the value of books: "There is no scholarship without exactness. Knowledge requires absolute certainty. Wisdom arises from a comparison of accurate information."

Thousands of questions, no count of which is kept, each of vital importance to the questioner, are answered by telephone, at the desk, or by letter for young and old, for small and mighty.

The Norma Meldrum Children's Room loaned 95,595 books which was an increase of nearly six hundred books a month over last year. Throughout the system 261,770 children's books were loaned. Gracious and quiet in atmosphere the children's room opens a door of beauty to all Houston's children and their response is a measure of their appreciation.

Many activities, such as vacation reading clubs, cooperation with teachers, observance of Book Week and instruction to school-room groups have been carried on to the end of winning children to a knowledge of the library and of books. An increase of over a thousand more books loaned every month is recorded at the branches, and the use of both the Heights (whose circulation was 91,203) and Carnegie (whose circulation was 80,224) branches is evidence of the place each fills in its community.

The total number of volumes in the Library is 114,599 of which 90,686 are in the Main Library, 6998 in Carnegie Branch, 7663 in Heights Branch and 9250 in Colored Branch.

Library cards were issued to 12,879 new readers. The Library has 50,604 registered card holders. Of these 35,193 are at the Main Library, 4987 at Carnegie Branch, 7084 at Heights Branch and 3340 at Colored Branch.

In the periodical room are received 42 daily and weekly newspapers and over 634 magazines. There are included here practically all periodicals of recognized worth: financial, industrial, educational, social and religious—all have their patrons. Back files of magazines are always available and many thousands of them are consulted during the year. Here are kept

also City and Telephone Directories of other cities; and school and college catalogs.

In 1928 the geological library of the late Dr. Edwin Theodore Dumble comprising about 600 bound volumes and about 1200 unbound volumes and pamphlets was presented to the Library by his wife, Mrs. Dumble. This collection is of particular value in this section of the country, where geology is a ruling factor in the gigantic oil enterprises which center around Houston and the southeast part of the state.

Other collections of special reference value are the bound files of Texas newspapers which date back to 1834; the collection of Government documents consisting of over 8,000 bound volumes and bound files of periodicals. These with books in the Reference Department of a more general nature as yearbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias comprise usefulness to the community and is something of which no figures are kept but from which throughout the day questions of every nature are being answered.

The genealogical collection is growing in value and use. Many of the volumes are gifts from the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution who through their cooperation have been instrumental in helping to develop this department.

Besides the Central Library and its three branches the Library maintains stations at Park Place, Harrisburg, West End, Girl Scouts Camp, Council House on Washington street, Eastwood Church and Foley Brothers, and book collections are kept in 40 schoolrooms.

The Auditorium and Club-Rooms are used by various groups. One hundred and thirty-five meetings have been held during the year.

Gifts to the number of 2328 books, 1177 pamphlets and periodicals and 205 maps and pictures have been received during the year. Among these are the portraits of General Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis, the gift of the Daughters of the Confederacy. These portraits hang above the desk of the main circulation department.

An interesting souvenir of the Democratic Convention for the Library's archives is the Guest Book of the Houston Hospitality House. This book was first signed by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mr. Clem Shaver, Governor Moody and others on the opening day of the convention and later by many visiting notables as well as by several thousand other guests of Houston. The volume was presented by the Hospitality House Committee of which Mr. Will Hogg was chairman. The pen (tied in the red, white and blue) is bound in cover.

The Green Mask Players presented the Library with $95.00 for purchasing books of plays. Mr. Meldrum gave the Children's Room $1,000.00 for new books, a group of Heights Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations gave over $90.00 for a curtain for the Heights Auditorium, the seven

Mexican librarians enroute to the American Library Association meeting who were entertained by the Houston Library presented a number of Mexican books and Major Ingham Roberts secured for presentation volume number one of the "Telegraph and Texas Register" published in Houston in 1835 to April 14, 1836, a gift of marked historical value.

Library Board: Mr. W. A. Vinson, President; Mrs. H. F. Ring, Vice President; Mrs. C. A. Teagle, Secretary; Mr. Robert Funkhouser, Treasurer; Mrs. W. G. Love, Dr. E. E. Oberholtzer, Dr. E. P. West, Dr. Henry Barnston.

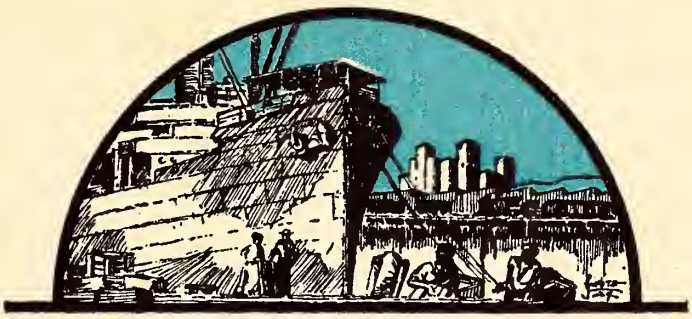
The Main Library building was constructed from bond issues to the amount of $500,000.00 voted by the people. The designing architect was Ralph Adams Cram who was associated with Watkin and Glover of Houston. The style of architecture is Spanish Renaissance and the building combines beauty of design and setting with adaptability to the climate and convenience of arrangement.

The Carnegie Branch is on the North Side and is so named in commemoration of Mr. Carnegie's gift of $50,000.00 to the city in 1900 for its first Library building. It is an attractive building located in a large square between two public schools and is of colonial style of architecture suggestive of Monticello. It was opened in 1925.

The Heights Branch in Houston Heights is the center of a thickly populated residential center. The building was dedicated in 1926 and is of Italian Renaissance architecture. Both Heights and Carnegie were built from the proceeds of the sale of the original Carnegie property.

The Colored Branch was built from a Carnegie gift of $15,000.00 and opened in 1913. It is located beside the Colored High School in the center of a Colored business and residential district.

These buildings mean more than "bricks and mortar"—they are a vital factor in the community's life and educational development.



# PORT *of* HOUSTON

# *Port of Houston*

*By* COLONEL B. C. ALLIN

NONE will gainsay the fact that the period under review now has seen Houston develop from a rather inconsequential ship terminal, with high hopes for the future, to a real world port, with oversea lines into every great port of the world and a coastwise commerce that has developed beyond fondest dreams.

COLONEL B. C. ALLIN
*Director of the Port*

CAPTAIN CHARLES CROTTY
*Assistant Director of the Port*

The Port of Houston the last year took fourth place in rank for foreign exports and eighth in combined imports and exports.

The rapid growth of the port reads like a romance in the commercial history of the nation, and the rapid development of the port has been reflected in the marvelous development of the city.

Eight years ago we had 3049 lineal feet of public wharves; now we have 7,401 feet. Eight years ago we had berthing space for 10 vessels; now space for 17. Eight years ago we had only 18.67 miles of Public Belt Railroad; now 56.14 miles.

But one fact not measured in figures is the change in methods of handling our port facilities brought about within these eight years. At initiative of this administration, and by special act of the legislature and vote of the people, the whole of port management was placed under the Navigation District, which comprises the entire county, instead of just the City of Houston. The Port Commission was made a separate entity by this action.

*Views along the Houston Ship Channel*

Another big move for port development was placing the Municipal Belt Railroad under joint management of all rail lines serving the port. Formerly the management of the city directly had been fraught with much dissatisfaction. The city induced the railroads to form a joint association, where charges for service to all railroads and industries were equalized and there could be no discrimination, nor any monopoly of advantages. This has worked tremendously to the advantage of all concerned and has had its part to do in development of the port.

Private initiative has not been idle while the Municipality, the Navigation District and Federal Government have been doing their part. But the most pleasing feature of it all, and the movement of most portent to the future of the city has been the alacrity with which private industries and private shipping firms have taken advantage of the opportunities offered them in Port Houston.

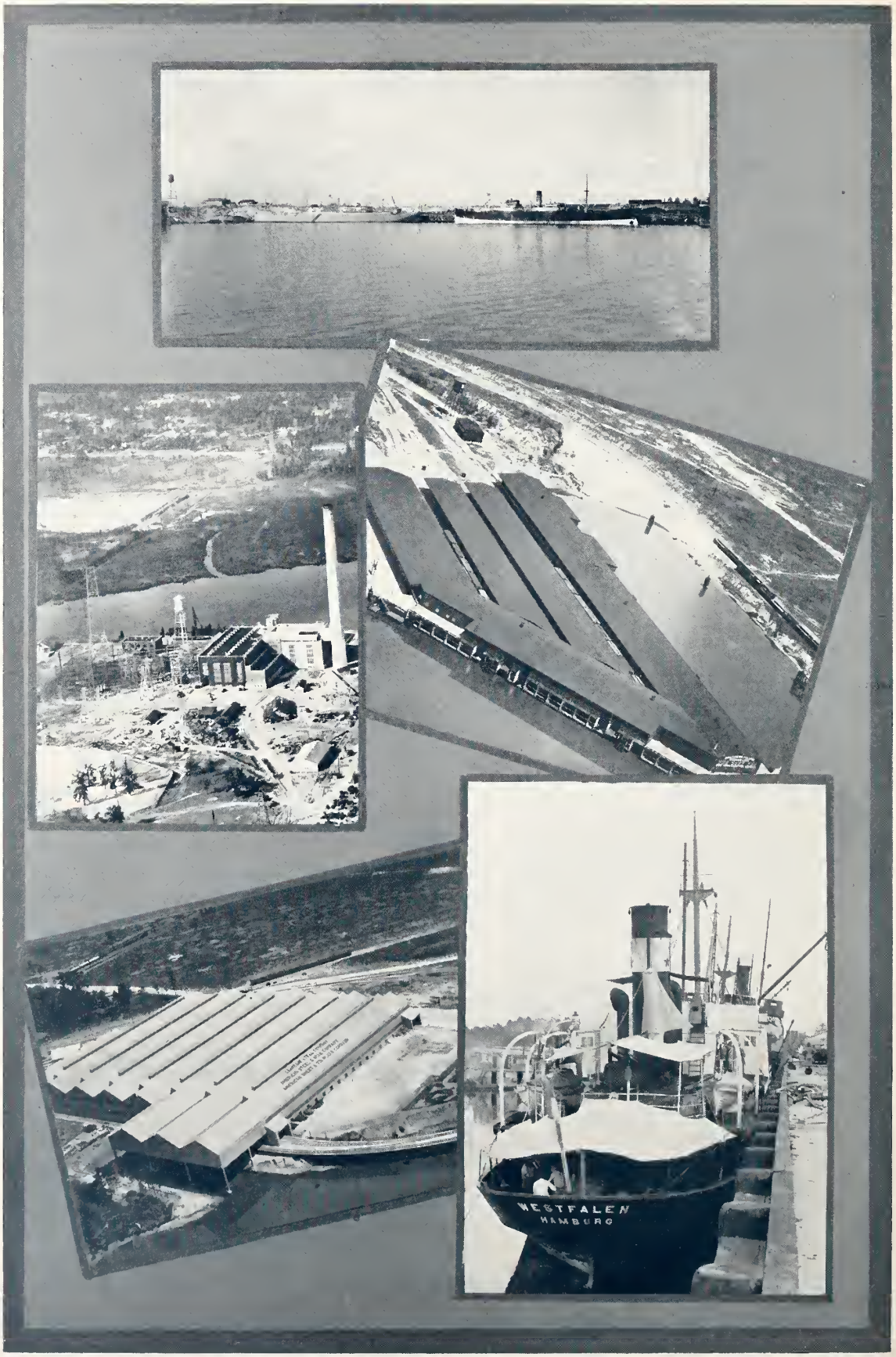
Big things the city has done single handed to develop the port are construction of the Sixty-ninth Street bridge and construction of wide concrete highways to wharves on both sides of the channel, at a total cost of $5,000,000. Navigation boulevard on the south is completed, designated by engineers as the finest built commercial driveway in the state, and the north side drive is almost complete. It has also in course of construction the Adams Street bridge, higher up on the channel, linking these two drives together. The county has aided by building a concrete highway on the south side from the city to Morgan's Point and on the north side from city limits to Goose Creek.

A bond issue was passed late in 1922 for $4,000,000 with which the Navigation District proceeded to construct terminals on the north side of the Turning Basin. Under this plan four wharf units were constructed, together with a million bushel grain elevator. Extensive railroad yards were also built on the north side of the Turning Basin and a connection made along Avenue "O," Magnolia Park, with the city-owned tracks at the Turning Basin to the track of the Municipal Harbor Belt line at Harrisburg boulevard, thus avoiding the necessity of operating over lines of other railroads.

Under a subsequent bond issue, passed in 1924, for $500,000.00 additional railway trackage was constructed in the railroad yard on the north side at Manchester and an extension from the Turning Basin to the Carnegie Steel Company plant near Clinton.

With these funds the fire boat "Port Houston" was constructed at a cost of about $314,000.00 and placed in active service during the summer of 1926 under the direction of the Houston Fire Department.

In 1927 another bond issue in the sum of $1,500,000.00 was passed, with which improvements have been made consisting of the construction of




*Views along the Houston Ship Channel*

Wharves 14 and 15, the extension of the carrier system of the grain elevator, the extension of the Public Belt Railroad from Pasadena to Deer Park, the construction of additional yard tracks at Manchester and in the Port Yard, the construction of a second story to Wharf No. 12 and the acquisition of several tracts of land for future development on the channel and for dumping grounds on which to deposit material excavated in making proposed improvements and for the use of the government in the construction and maintenance of the main channel.

The main ship channel has been deepened from 25 feet to 30 feet and has been widened from 150 feet to 250 feet from Bolivar Roads to Morgan's Point across Galveston Bay, and from 100 feet to 150 feet from Morgan's Point to the Turning Basin, with a considerable enlargement of the basin proper. This work was done under appropriations made by the Federal Government and the cooperation of the Navigation District, which contributed $1,365,000.00 toward this work, which was done at a total cost of approximately $5,000,000.00.

Examination and survey have been made and report submitted to the chief of engineers, which will provide for further improvements of the channel by easing of bends and widening in certain localities.

The following table represents the growth of public facilities during the past eight years:

| | 1921 | 1929 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lineal feet of wharves | 3,049 | 7,401 | Lin. Ft. |
| Berthing space for vessels | 10 | 17 | Vessels |
| Covered area in square feet | 703,308 | 1,175,011 | Sq. Ft. |
| Open area in square feet | 102,322 | 409,182 | Sq. Ft. |
| Miles of Public Belt Railroad | 18.67 | 56.14 | |

The development of private terminals and industrial plants along the Ship Channel during this period has been very extensive, as well as the enlargement of plants, which had been established prior to 1921. Among the new industries are listed the following:

Houston Compress Company, with 3504 feet of wharf frontage.

Channel Fuel Company, 500 feet.

American Maid Flour Mills, large flour mill and grain elevator, using Manchester Wharf for loading vessels.

Carnegie Steel Company, large storage and assembling plant, with 400 feet of wharfage.

Southern Pacific (Morgan Line) Terminals, with 1250 feet of wharf front.

Manchester Terminal Corporation, cotton compress and general merchandise terminals, 1600 feet of wharves.

Clarion Oil Company, 150 feet.

*Views along the Houston Ship Channel*

Gulf Refining Company (Keen & Woolf plant), refinery and 600 feet of wharf under construction.

Houston Lighting & Power Company, 100,000 kilowatt generating plant, with 600 feet bulkhead and 150 foot wharf.

Crown-Central Oil Corporation, large refinery and 300 foot wharf.

American Petroleum Company, large tank farm and 150 foot wharf.

Shell Petroleum Corporation, large refinery under construction, with slip 2,000 feet long, three wharf units 250 feet each.

San Jacinto Dock & Terminal Company (C. A. Barbour), channel and Turning Basin under construction at Morgan's Point.

Houston Oil Terminal provided bunker oil storage on south side of basin, with loading pipe lines along public wharves and to Houston Compress wharves whereby vessels can be bunkered while taking on and discharging cargo.

Turning Basin Compress Company leased cotton sheds A, B and C from the city and installed two high density compressers, together with additional buildings, providing modern compress facilities at shipside in rear of wharves 7 and 8.

In addition to these improvements of the main channel, the following have taken place on the light draft channel between the Turning Basin and Main street:

Construction of the Trinity Portland Cement plant, with a capacity of about 2,000 barrels per day.

Building of the 6-story plant of the Houston Terminal Warehouse and Cold Storage Company, providing 350,000 cubic feet of cold storage and 750,000 square feet of dry storage area.

The Central Warehouse and Forwarding Company (H. C. Schuhmacher properties), 6-story merchandise warehouse.

The enlargement and improvement of various cotton loading facilities, shell and sand plants, etc., as well as the construction of a small marine railway and repair yard by W. L. Jones.

This upper channel is now being improved to a depth of 10 feet and width of 60 feet on the bottom, this work to be completed during the present year.

In addition to these, the following plants have materially enlarged their facilities:

The Ralston-Purina Company (formerly the Tex-Cuban Molasses Company), increased tankage facilities.

Armour Fertilizer Works, enlargement of plant.

Ship Channel Compress Company, construction of 800 foot wharf and large two-story sheds and compress.

Texas Chemical Company, enlargement of plant.

*Views along the Houston Ship Channel*

Deepwater Oil Refinery, increased capacity of plant with pipe line for loading over public wharf at Manchester.

Texas Portland Cement Company, tripling the capacity of plant.

Sinclair Oil Refining Company, more than doubling the capacity of plant and construction of 1400 feet of wharves.

Galena Refinery, increasing capacity of plant.

Gulf Refining Company, increased storage facilities.

Humble Oil & Refining Company, increase of capacity by 100% and addition of 400 foot pier.

The Houston North Shore Electric Line, now controlled by the Missouri Pacific, has extended an electric interurban from Houston to Goose Creek along the north side of the channel, and Mr. J. S. Cullinan has constructed a private railroad, known as the North Side Belt Railroad, from Galena to a connection with the Port Yard near the Turning Basin.

The growth of the Port of Houston is clearly brought out in the increase in tonnage passing through the port and by the number of vessels loading and discharging each year, and the following table shows the phenomenal growth of traffic which has brought the Port of Houston from a standing start in 1915 to the fourth place in United States ports for foreign exports and to eighth place in combined imports and exports, according to the annual report issued by the United States Shipping Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT BY YEARS

SHORT TONS

| | 1920 | | 1921 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tons | Value | Tons | Value |
| Imports | 208,662 | $ 3,504,397 | 227,254 | $ 3,302,271 |
| Exports | 215,913 | 45,092,145 | 318,092 | 48,827,043 |
| Coastwise Inbound | 149,375 | 22,061,296 | 213,509 | 12,361,775 |
| Coastwise Outbound | 140,671 | 23,098,918 | 637,583 | 9,286,246 |
| Sub Total | 714,621 | 72,967,244 | 1,396,438 | 73,877,335 |
| Local Traffic | 493,583 | 9,333,918 | 1,440,911 | 5,086,053 |
| Grand Total | 1,210,204 | $ 82,301,162 | 2,837,349 | $ 78,963,388 |

| | 1922 | | 1923 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tons | Value | Tons | Value |
| Imports | 391,517 | $ 4,226,148 | 484,915 | $ 6,291,702 |
| Exports | 537,617 | 96,893,152 | 948,163 | 148,566,373 |
| Coastwise Inbound | 234,131 | 20,871,247 | 201,838 | 31,455,158 |
| Coastwise Outbound | 864,662 | 14,969,073 | 1,514,280 | 28,812,281 |
| Sub Total | 2,027,927 | 136,959,620 | 3,149,196 | 215,125,512 |
| Local Traffic | 1,337,708 | 7,313,280 | 1,646,128 | 15,518,219 |
| Grand Total | 3,365,635 | $144,272,900 | 4,795,324 | $230,643,731 |

| | 1924 | | 1925 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tons | Value | Tons | Value |
| Imports | 671,674 | $ 8,194,648 | 489,619 | $ 11,156,959 |
| Exports | 1,471,989 | 195,495,744 | 1,913,286 | 285,622,945 |
| Coastwise Inbound | 240,759 | 41,839,833 | 412,279 | 52,609,700 |
| Coastwise Outbound | 2,959,176 | 49,266,646 | 4,488,898 | 118,428,792 |
| Sub Total | 5,343,598 | 294,796,871 | 7,304,082 | 467,818,396 |
| Local Traffic | 1,750,696 | 19,559,637 | 2,443,040 | 22,187,896 |
| Grand Total | 7,094,294 | $314,356,508 | 9,747,122 | $490,006,292 |

| | 1926 | | 1927 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tons | Value | Tons | Value |
| Imports | 388,438 | $ 10,233,229 | 184,657 | $ 7,053,541 |
| Exports | 2,562,400 | 226,759,667 | 2,873,677 | 275,473,345 |
| Coastwise Inbound | 570,262 | 42,409,441 | 912,212 | 69,027,798 |
| Coastwise Outbound | 4,627,792 | 120,714,310 | 5,725,064 | 147,374,959 |
| Sub Total | 8,148,992 | 400,116,647 | 9,695,610 | 493,929,643 |
| Local Traffic | 2,427,344 | 15,462,185 | 2,307,887 | 17,199,957 |
| Grand Total | 10,576,236 | $415,578,832 | 12,003,497 | $516,129,600 |

| | 1928 | |
|---|---|---|
| | Tons | Value |
| Imports | 366,819.5 | $ 12,187,033 |
| Exports | 4,501,996.0 | 364,740,215 |
| Coastwise In | 290,092.7 | 47,680,995 |
| Coastwise Out | 4,285,403.1 | 123,039,815 |
| Intercoastal In | 75,198.7 | 7,285,685 |
| Intercoastal Out | 12,377.6 | 1,574,900 |
| Intracoastal In | 554,093.7 | 11,122,496 |
| Intracoastal Out | 970,018.4 | 16,766,743 |
| Sub Total | 11,055,999.7 | 584,397,882 |
| Local Traffic | 1,923,826.5 | 14,326,126 |
| Grand Total | 12,979,826.2 | $598,724,008 |

## COTTON EXPORT THROUGH PORT OF HOUSTON FOR

| Calendar Year— | Sq. Bales | Calendar Year— | Sq. Bales |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1920 | 275,879 | 1924 | 1,288,280 |
| 1921 | 455,015 | 1925 | 1,918,314 |
| 1922 | 771,894 | 1926 | 2,071,005 |
| 1923 | 1,004,680 | 1927 | 2,158,475 |

Calendar Year 1928 ..... 2,326,372 Sq. Bales.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF VESSELS

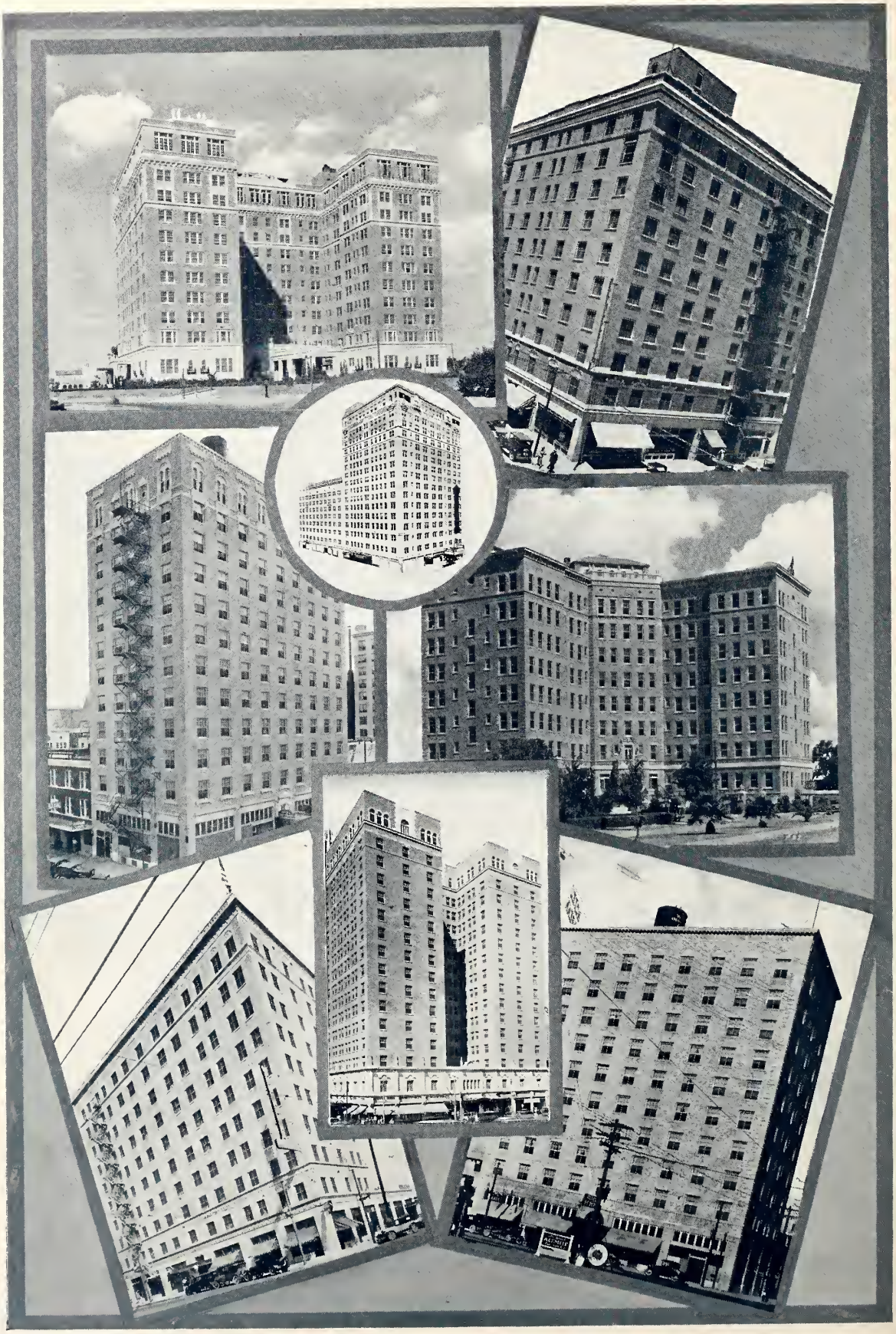
| Year— | Arrivals | Departures | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1919 | 157 | 153 | 310 |
| 1920 | 165 | 161 | 326 |
| 1921 | 364 | 380 | 744 |
| 1922 | 511 | 495 | 1,006 |
| 1923 | 701 | 693 | 1,400 |
| 1924 | 955 | 952 | 1,907 |
| 1925 | 1,193 | 1,183 | 2,376 |
| 1926 | 1,391 | 1,386 | 2,777 |
| 1927 | 1,787 | 1,773 | 3,560 |
| 1928 | 1,973 | 1,962 | 3,935 |

THE photographs on the following pages further emphasize the growth and development of Houston during the past eight years.

*Downtown Houston, as seen from the air*

*Some of the many beautiful buildings that have added greatly to Houston's skyline during the past eight years*

*Another group of Majestic Buildings that have given to downtown Houston both dignity and beauty*



*These modern Hotels and Apartments have played an important part in making Houston the Southwest's leading City*

*Houston may well feel proud of its new Art Museum, great Democratic Hall, enlarged City Auditorium and stately County Court Building*

*The three great Daily Newspapers have played an important part in the marvelous growth and development of Houston. The top photograph shows the new home of The Houston Press; the center photograph is that of the printing plant of the Houston Post-Dispatch; while the tall building at the bottom is the home of the Houston Chronicle. No city in the Southwest is privileged to have three finer newspapers*

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